

*Sally Van Why*

THE  
THOMPSON GEORGE BELL  
FAMILY

1979



## INTRODUCTION

The Thompson George Bell family has always been closeknit. For many years informal reunions were held every summer at Lewistown, York, Wilkes Barre and Ocean Grove, New Jersey. The first organized reunion, held in 1929 at Newton Hamilton, was brought about by J. Ellis Bell. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this first reunion this booklet has been prepared for the 1979 reunion - the 18th. Descendants of William S. Bell and John M. Bell, brothers of Thompson, also join in the reunions.

In addition to reunions a Bell Round Robin has been traveling through the Clan since 1942. A Bell Reunion News is issued once or twice a year. Histories of the family have been published in 1912, 1924, 1929, 1941 and 1966. This booklet is more than names and dates. It tells about the activities of our families. Our thanks go to each of you for your help.

Raymond Martin Bell  
Washington, Pennsylvania  
1 January 1979

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## The Bells

Hear the ringing of the Bells,  
 What a world of friendship their pealing foretells!  
 Now we gather here once more, as we have in years before,  
 How we visit with each other, Mother, Father, sister, brother,  
 With the greatest of delight, reminiscing till the night,  
 Telling what has passed with time in a sort of family rhyme,  
 The ringing and the singing of the Bells.

Hear the ringing of the Bells, Church bells,  
 What a history of ours their melody tells,  
 From the early pioneer who did come this land to clear,  
 After homes rose church and steeple for the welfare of all people,  
 In he placed the ringing bell, ringing out good news to tell,  
 Gathering people in to hear words of comfort and of cheer,  
 Sacred bells, saintly Bells in a sort of family rhyme,  
 The ringing and the music of the bells, bells, bells.

Hear the golden ding-dong of the bells, the old school bells,  
 How the sound, to children, a dreary time foretells,  
 All day long with books and rules, they wonder, "Who invented schools?"  
 Lessons learned in days of old helped to keep us in the fold,  
 Much was learned in early days and today we give them praise,  
 Dreary bells, old school bells, golden bells.

Hear the ringing of the bells, Wedding bells!  
 What a world of happiness their harmony foretells,  
 Happy wives and husbands dear, we can see them all right here,  
 Husbands, too, are sure to tell that it's hard to beat a Bell,  
 As a wife for all of life,  
 And happy living day by day,  
 Hear the ringing and the singing of the bells, bells, bells, Wedding bells!

Hear the ringing and the singing, Evening bells.  
 How they ring out peace and rest, when the sun is in the west,  
 How they fall upon the ear with a sound of inner cheer,  
 When the end of day's in sight, there's no need to dread the night,  
 With the pealing, softly stealing, celestial joys revealing,  
 In a sort of Heavenly rhyme, keeping time, time, time,  
 For the comfort of us all, Bells, Bells, Bells.

(After Poe's "The Bells")

Written for the Bell reunion,

June 20, 1970

by Lois Bell, Poet Laureate of the Bells



# THOMPSON GEORGE BELL

Thompson George Bell was born Jan 12-1817 in a log house in Decatur Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania about 2 miles northeast of Vira. His parents were John Henderson Bell (1791-1838), Scotch-Irish and Mary Sigler (1792-1857), German. Mary's father had been captured by the Indians in 1782 - a story that has come down through every generation. In the family Bible the entry is:

George Thompson Bell born January 12-1817  
To avoid confusion with another G T B born 1803, his father's cousin, he reversed the names and became T G Bell. Thompson is apparently a family name. Its origin is unknown.

When Thompson was born there was a brother, William, age 3, and a sister Matilda, age 1. An older brother had died at age 2. Eight more children were born into the family, 2 boys and 6 girls. About 1825 a stone house was built by Thompson's father. It is still standing. The father, a leader in church, school and community affairs died June 8-1838 at 46, leaving 10 children. Another boy had died young. The two oldest were married - there was one grandchild. William, the oldest son, took over the farm. The mother lived until her youngest was 24.

The family attended the Vira (Little Valley) (United) Presbyterian Church. Near the church was a log school, Little Valley Academy, where Thompson certainly went to school. In 1834 with the passage of the state school law Thompson began to teach school and singing school. He continued until his marriage in 1841. His two brothers and several of his sons were also school teachers.

In 1823 Samuel Martin (1775-1842) of Lewistown moved to the farm at Vira just east of Crystal Spring Farm - the Martin-Ralph-Clarence Bell farm. He built a house called the Red House. In 1835 he built another house known as the White House. He was an ardent Methodist and was one of the founders of the Vira (United) Methodist Church. His wife, Nancy Stark (1779-1859), a native of Maryland, had moved to Lewistown as a child. Her father was Zephaniah Stark.

In 1823 the Martin family consisted of four boys, ages 16, 13, 3,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and two girls, 7 and  $5\frac{1}{2}$ . Another son was born in 1824. Three of the boys became physicians, two farmers. The  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -year old girl, Priscilla, born Oct 11-1817, became the wife of Thompson Bell 4 days before her 24th birthday. She and Thompson likely attended school together. He passed her farm every time he went to Vira, Derry Township, Mifflin County.



As a young man Thompson rode to Hunterdon County, New Jersey by horseback, taking 2 days, to visit his mother's uncle, Henry Bunn. The Bunn children were about Thompson's age. The Bells have always been clannish, keeping in touch with their relatives. This has persisted to the present generation.

Upon marriage Thompson and Priscilla set up housekeeping in the Red House on her father's farm. Nine months and 13 days after their marriage, a son, Samuel Martin Bell, was born. When Martin was 35 days old, his grandfather Martin died and Thompson and Priscilla moved to the White House. After Priscilla's brother, Frank, married Thompson's sister, Sarah, Thompson moved to Dry Valley where Priscilla's brother, McGinnis, had a farm. This was in 1845. Frank and Sarah lived in the White House.

In 1848 Thompson moved to the Stone House at the foot of the mountain, west of Vira. Here he stayed until 1859, when he returned to the White House. In 1874 he retired from farming and moved to the Brown House, across the road from the Presbyterian Church. He died here in 1889. The home was not broken up until 1907, after the death of Thompson's second wife. The Brown House is still standing.

There were 3 more sons born to Thompson and Priscilla: John Foster 1844, James Ellis 1846, Edwin Thompson 1848. Edwin died in 1849, Priscilla in 1851. Thompson wrote of her:

She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. With her religion was a reality. Methodism in those days was derided and it required much strength of character for a young, beautiful girl like her to identify herself with this denomination. She was never arbitrary yet she always acted true to her convictions. She worked hard, but had an insatiable thirst for reading and was a delightful companion in conversation. She never asked me to join the Methodist church with her and it was only after plainly seeing God's hand opening the door of that church to me that I joined. After lingering through months of weakness she passed away sweetly trusting in Jesus.

A nephew wrote:

She was a beautiful woman, good company and instructive in conversation. She had a thirst for reading, especially history. Her father gave her \$10 when as a girl she read aloud to him Roland's Ancient History. She lived a consistent Christian life, watching over the spiritual interests of her boys.

She dressed plain, as Methodists did. Her scrapbook has been preserved. A quilt that she made was in the family for years. She and Thompson went to Harrisburg on one occasion to hear Jenny Lind sing. Her three boys used their middle names. Foster and Ellis became ministers. Martin stayed on the farm at Vira.



On June 3-1852 Thompson married Mary Elizabeth Anderson, born in 1829, daughter of Joseph Anderson (d Nov 1828) and Jane McCord (1797-1868). Mary had two older sisters. At 10 she went to live in Lewistown with her mother's cousin, Rachel Gillespie Martin Gruber. Rachel's first husband, Joseph Martin, was an uncle of Priscilla's. Her second husband was the Rev. Jacob Gruber, a well-known Methodist preacher.

S, Martin Bell in 1891 wrote to Mary E. Bell:

My mind goes back to a bright day in June 1852, when you first came to our home, a mother to three thoughtless boys. I am sure that very few could have filled the place so well, and those boys who remain have reason for thankfulness.

Thompson and Mary had seven children: Gruber 1853, Cilla 1854, Jen 1856, Tillie 1858, George 1860, Laura 1866, Will 1868. In 1857 Thompson, his brother, John, and his brother-in-law, Frank Martin, went west to look around. They all bought land. Frank and family settled near Hammond, Illinois. Thompson and John came back to Pennsylvania. Frank and family were back in Pennsylvania 1859-61. In 1877 Thompson was in Henry County, Indiana trying to sell land. He wrote home from Ogden IN on November 21.

Thompson was active in school and community circles. He taught school at least one year after his marriage, about 1855. He was a justice of the peace in 1876. None of his sons served in the Civil War. The high price paid for wheat increased their income during that period. The T G Bell estate was valued at \$17,531.87. At 21 each son got \$1000 and a horse. At marriage each daughter got \$500 and a bed with bedding. Gruber farmed until 1893 when he moved to Lewistown. George went into business in Wilkes Barre in 1887. Will worked in several places.

Three of Thompson's sons were in Illinois for a while. Martin left for Illinois in 1864 and was there until 1880, except for visits to Pa in 1865-66, 1871 and 1874-75. Ellis attended Northwestern University and Garrett Seminary at Evanston IL 1873-78. He entered the university as a sophomore. Gruber taught school at Hammond IL for a year in the '70's.

The children of Thompson chose the following spouses:

1868	Martin	Sallie Nichols
1873	Foster	Rie Naginey
1875	Cilla	George Himes
1878	Gruber	Nettie Shadle
1880	Ellis	June Waters
1881	Jen	Dorie Beashor
1887	George	Marge Byers
1891	Will	Margaret Dipperry
1903	Tillie	John Berkheimer
1920	Laura	George Himes (see above)



The 18 grandchildren (all named Bell) were: \* died young

1869	Frank	1886	Marion
1873	Alfred *	1888	Fearon
1876	Ralph	1889	Lois
	John	1890	Mary
1879	Foster		Gertrude
1881	Grace	1892	Thompson
1883	Elsie		Vincent
1884	Harvey (of Gruber) *	1894	Harvey (of George) *
	Carl	1899	George

The deaths of the children and their spouses covered over a century:

1849	Edwin age 1	1932	Ellis 86
1878	Foster 34	1933	Rie 85
1914	John Berkheimer 72		Tillie 75
1915	Cilla 61	1934	Nettie 79
1918	Will 50	1937	Dorie 79
1921	Martin 79	1938	George Himes 85
1924	Gruber 71	1940	Marge 78
1925	Sallie 83	1943	Jen 87
1930	June 77	1958	Margaret 88
	George 70	1960	Laura 94

Thompson was brought up in the Presbyterian Church. As a youth he was disturbed by the doctrine that events are predestined. After he married a Methodist he had his children baptized in the Methodist Church. In 1847 he was brought before the Vira Presbyterian session for going to the Methodist Church, having his children baptized there and leading the singing at a Methodist revival. The session wanted him to say he was sorry, but he refused. He felt that it was his place to take his wife to her own church. So he joined the Methodist Church. Two sons and 2 grandsons became Methodist preachers. From then until his death in 1889 he was a leader in the Vira Methodist Church: class-leader, steward, leader of prayermeeting, Sunday School superintendent, song leader, trustee, exhorter.

His son, Martin, wrote of Thompson:

I never felt that I could do justice to the life and character of my father. As a man and citizen, he was a born leader; a man of strong character and very influential in the community; a cautious, correct business man, clerking many sales and settling up many estates, thus handling much money for others of which he never lost a dollar. He started as a poor boy, but before many years he owned a farm. As a leader in church work he was a living epistle known and read of all men. Gifted and earnest in exhortation, prayer and song, his natural place was at the front, first and always. He lead the church music for many years and delighted in teaching children to sing. But it is as a kind, Christian father that we remember him best and love to think of him. Morning and night his prayer went up from the home altar for those present and absent. Firm yet not severe, kind yet not over-indulgent, he ever set an example that has been an inspiration to us all.



Thompson's nephew, James Martin, wrote:

He was a born leader of men, for many years counselor and advisor of neighbors and friends, who sought his wise advice in perplexing questions. A happy, devout Christian, he was a lover of music, a sweet singer and an active leader in the Methodist Church.

A minister wrote:

He was a natural-born leader in the community, in business circles, in the home, in the church. He was a thorough Methodist. He was neighborly, liberal, kind, honest and strictly conscientious. In 1862 his pastor wrote that "he can sing, talk, pray; is useful popular and good." A constant reader he was liberal, fresh and a man of the times. He was an affectionate, interested, self-sacrificing, hopeful father; a kind, loving, thoughtful, trustful husband.

Rev. McGarrah made this tribute:

A good man has gone from us; a useful life is ended, though not its usefulness. For, when good men die, they continue with us in the lessons they taught while they were yet with us, in the influences they started, and in the example they set.

Brother Bell had many elements of usefulness; these brought him into prominence in the church and in the community. His death is a stroke which will be felt throughout the circle of his activities and acquaintances. His intelligence and good judgment made him a wise counsellor; he was often of great advantage to his neighbors as an advisor, and many of them sought and received his assistance in this respect. His integrity and reliability in business made him often the custodian of trust funds, and he always transacted such business with acceptability to those who sought his services. Such a man is a blessing to his community. In all his relations with men our Brother was a man of integrity; he was transparent and truthful; he had great respect for his word, and whatever he said you could rely upon - his promises were made to be kept.

His home-life was of the happiest character. In his family he was kind and indulgent; here he governed by persuasive tenderness. Yet he was not weak; he was firm enough to deny unnecessary liberty; and to rear his children to industry and frugality, notwithstanding the tendency of the times to idleness and extravagance. And such was the reasonableness of his discipline, and the gentle firmness with which it was enforced, that his children were inspired with respect for his opinions and authority.

To strangers, in his home, Brother Bell was courteous and attentive. He had the easy manners of one whose generosity was the spontaneous outflow of a benevolent nature. His hospitality was proverbial, and it was so quiet as to be neither ostentatious nor demonstrative. In his social intercourse, he was cheerful but never frivolous; the seriousness of manner which was so peculiar to him, never forsook him; but it was not so much as to repel you, indeed, it attracted you to him and inspired you with confidence in him. I never saw him off his guard; he was happily free from irritability. He could be positive without evincing temper, or arousing opposition; he could express dissent without being rude. The same unruffled demeanor marked his whole life, and he was always in the same mood without much regard to the circumstances around him.



But it was Brother Bell's religious character that particularly distinguished him. His whole life was one of devotion to God and the Church; from youth to old age he was known as a religious man; and when his name shall be mentioned in time to come, it will suggest first of all his religious character. His experience as a Christian was of a high order; he had no special regard for mere forms; he knew that religion was a vital element, a life in the soul; he esteemed therefore very highly the higher forms of religious experience. Yet he was modest in his professions; there was no pretentiousness about his profession of religion. Nor did he attach importance to mere professions of superior piety in others, where there was no corresponding life of charity and obedience. He did esteem of the utmost importance, the conscientious performance of religious duty, and was careful that his own life should illustrate the grace of God within him. He understood the doctrines of his own church, and those of most others also, and while he was a thorough Methodist, in creed and practice, he had large charity for all denominations, and he fellowshiped people of all faiths.

Brother Bell was an efficient church officer; he served the Church well in nearly all the relations open to laymen; he could lead a prayermeeting with acceptability and profit; he was a sympathetic and intelligent classleader; a wise and liberal steward; he was a capable and efficient Sunday School superintendent; and in a revival he was a necessity to his pastor - he knew how to instruct a penitent, how to comfort a mourner, and how to rejoice with a believer.

His gift of song enabled him to enliven every service in which he engaged; my earliest recollections of Brother Bell are of his campmeeting singing; and today I can almost hear his clear, musical voice, as it came to me in the grove long years ago.

Brother Bell had special regard for the sacredness of the Sabbath. I have very pleasant recollections of the quiet restfulness of the day in his home; he eschewed secular reading and worldly conversation, and remembered the day to keep it holy.

He was a constant and faithful student of the Scriptures, and had great reverence for their teachings; you could put your hand on a Bible in his house at any time, and its well-worn cover testified to the frequency of its use.

He had great respect also for the ministry; he believed his pastors to be men appointed of God to preach the word and oversee the Church, and he was never found in hostility to them; if he could not always endorse their administration, he could refrain from criticism. And of all the pastors sent him by the Church in his long life, he was not alienated from a single one.

Indeed, the life of Brother Bell was about all that could be desired. It was an honest, upright life; it was an active, industrious life; it was a patient, submissive life; it was a pure and godly life. If he had defects (and we all have them) they were so insignificant as scarcely to be noticeable in the presence of so many and such distinguished virtues. He was so unselfish; he lived for his family, for the church and the world. He caught the spirit of his Lord and Master, and reproduced in his own life, in some good measure, the excellence which he illustrated while among men. He will be missed in this community; he will not be forgotten. It is not possible now to fully estimate the good influences and results of his exemplary life; eternity alone will reveal the extent to which he was made a blessing to others. He was born in this valley; he



lived and died among you; for 73 years he went in and out before you; and he has passed away with the confidence and esteem of all. It is satisfactory to contemplate such a life, and it increases our respect for mankind, and our confidence in the Christian religion.

Life in the Thompson Bell family was a busy one. Horseback was the mode of travel; later came the spring wagon and the buggy. A candle in a lantern, a lard lamp and then a kerosene lamp were used. Stoves provided heat. Old-fashioned outside bake ovens were used. Mush and apple butter were plentiful. Christmas meant an orange and a pair of mittens. A trip was made to Lewistown once a week for mail. Spelling bees, literary society, singing schools provided entertainment. The campmeeting each summer was a big event. A story is told of a race for a doctor when one of the boys was injured while working in the woodland.

At the death of Rachel Gruber in 1854 the tall walnut desk of Jacob Gruber's became Thompson's. It stood in the Brown House from 1874 to 1925 when Aunt Nettie gave it to Raymond. It stood at Carlisle from 1925 to 1976 when Raymond gave it to his son, Edward.

After the death of Thompson Bell in 1889, Mary, his wife, continued to live in the Brown House until her death in 1907. Tillie left in 1903; Laura stayed with her, except for a visit to California about 1900. Laura wrote of her mother:

With the careful pious training she received she developed into a woman who was physically, mentally, and morally far beyond the average. She was untiring in her devotion as wife and mother and friend, and was always loyal to her God and to the Church of her choice, the Methodist Episcopal. She was a most gracious hostess, keeping open house the year round for friends and ministers and indeed for all who came to her door needing friendly shelter. Martha Martin once said of her home, Aunt Mary's is "The House by the Side of the Road". To us, her children, the memory of our happy home is one of our blessed heritages.

Thompson George Bell b Jan 12-1817 d Sep 28-1889 m1 Oct 7-1841

Priscilla Martin b Oct 11-1817 d Mar 21-1851

1. Samuel Martin Bell b Aug 20-1842, see below

2. John Foster Bell b Oct 16-1844, see below

3. James Ellis Bell b Aug 4-1846, see below

(Edwin Thompson Bell b May 26-1848 d Sep 21-1849)

T G B m2 Mary Elizabeth Anderson b Feb 27-1829 d Jan 3-1907

4. Gruber H. Bell b Mar 9-1853, see below

5. Priscilla Mary Bell b Oct 5-1854, see below

6. Jane Ann Bell b Aug 28-1856, see below

7. Sarah Matilda Bell b Aug 6-1858, see below

8. George Thompson Bell b Jul 2-1860, see below

9. Laura Houck Bell b Jan 16-1866, see below

10. William Hahn Bell b Jul 23-1868, see below



# 1. SAMUEL MARTIN BELL

Martin was born in 1842 in the Red House near Vira, on the farm of his grandfather, Samuel Martin. He kept a diary much of his life, as early as 1857. There is still in existence a report of his grades at Lewistown Academy 1857-58. He wore a beard for most of his life.

In 1864 he left Pennsylvania for Illinois, where his uncle, Frank Martin, lived. Here he met and married Sallie Nichols who had moved to Lovington IL from Maryland's eastern shore in 1862. He taught school 1867-68 and was married Mar 18-1868. He bought and farmed 80 acres between Lovington and Hammond and built his own house. He broke the raw prairie and split his own rails. It cost him \$1800 for farm, house, horses and equipment. Land sold for \$11 an acre.

Here Frank was born in 1869 and Ralph in 1876. Because of poor health, caused by malaria, Martin with his family returned in 1880 to his birthplace, Vira and farmed one of his father's farms. He retired from farming in 1903 and built a house in the center of Vira, close to the Methodist Church. Here he lived until his death in 1921. Deeply religious he was a leader and worker in the church holding a number of offices over the years. He taught a men's class for 40 years.

He was gifted in song and speech and prayer. His son, Frank wrote, "I always enjoyed hearing my father speak in public. His musical voice, so full of rich cadence, so sympathetic, carried his words straight to the heart."

Sallie was born in 1842 near Seaford DE, moving to Federalsburg MD when two. She was a member of Bethel Methodist Church on the DE-MD line. In 1865 she was at Springfield IL for Lincoln's funeral. She died at Vira in 1925. Young in spirit she longed to see what lay in the future. She liked to travel. At 80 she camped out with her son, Frank, and family on a trip from Illinois to Pennsylvania. She was much interested in radio. Active in the church her home was a home for many young ministers.

Samuel Martin Bell b Aug 20-1842 d Feb 12-1921 m Mar 18-1868 Sarah Catherine Nichols b May 13-1842 d Aug 13-1925

a. Frank Thompson Bell b Feb 4-1869, see below

b. Ralph Curtis Bell b May 10-1876, see below



a. Frank Thompson Bell

Frank was born near Lovington IL in 1869. He liked to tell of his days on the prairie. In 1880 he moved to Vira with his family. He attended Lewistown Academy 1887-88 and Dickinson Seminary 1890-91. He taught school at or near Vira 1888-90 and 1891-96. For a year 1896-97 he worked as a machinist in a bicycle shop at Plymouth PA. He attended Dickinson Preparatory School 1897-98 and received the A B degree at Dickinson in 1902, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. Then he joined the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Conference. His appointments were:

1900-02 Linglestown; 1902-06 Gatchelville; 1906-11 Weatherly; 1911-18 Reedsville; 1918-21 Newport; 1921-24 Bellwood

He was a loving husband and father, a kind pastor, an able church administrator and a good preacher. A highlight of his life was his Mediterranean cruise and visit to the Holy Land Jan-Apr 1905. He got an A M degree from Dickinson College in 1920.

Frank was handy with tools and could repair anything about a car. He was good at carpentry and electrical work. He and his brother, Ralph, made long bicycle trips at the turn of the century, e g to Buffalo N Y. He set up a house tent on Jacks Mountain in the summer 1913-17, later traveling by car and tenting 1922-24.

In 1905 he married Marion Seibert of Harrisburg, whom he met while preaching at Linglestown, where her grandparents lived. She was a good minister's wife and a true helpmate to Frank in his churches. Frank was killed in an auto accident near Huntingdon PA in July 1924, enroute to Vira.

Marion moved to Carlisle, living there 50 years until her death in 1974 at 94. Her birthplace was Ogden UT (1880), where her father was an express agent. She moved to Harrisburg at the age of 2 months. Her life was long and useful; she was a faithful member of Allison Methodist Church. She liked to read and keep up-to-date. She was a good letter writer. As a loving Christian mother she set an example for all of us.  
Frank Thompson Bell b Feb 4-1869 d Jul 21-1924 m Dec 28-1905 Marion Estelle Seibert b Nov 19-1880 d Aug 18-1974

i. Raymond Martin Bell b Mar 21-1907, see below

ii. Sarah Catherine Bell b May 14-1909. She was born at Weatherly and lived in 4 parsonages before moving to Carlisle in 1924. She was graduated from Dickinson College in 1931. From 1931 to 1933 she continued her studies at Scarritt College, Nashville TN. From 1943 to 1971 she was a secretary at Dickinson College - faithful and conscientious and much respected. She continues to live in the home at Carlisle.



i. Raymond Martin Bell

Raymond was born at Weatherly PA in 1907. He lived in 4 parsonages 1907-24; and was connected with 4 colleges 1924-75, as student and then teacher, receiving 4 degrees: Dickinson (ØBK) A B, Syracuse A M, Penn State Ph D, Washington and Jefferson (hon) Sc D.

With radio as a hobby beginning in 1922, he pioneered in television in the 1930's. Always interested in history, he has published many works and made many speeches on church, family and local history. He has held church offices in the United Methodist Church at all levels from national to local. He taught physics and astronomy at W and J College from 1937 to 1975.

In 1942 he married in Wilmore PA Lillian Kelly, daughter of the United Brethren minister. He and Lillian have traveled a great deal in the U S, Canada and the U K. Raymond has sponsored the Bell Round Robin, the Bell Reunion News and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Bell reunions since the first in 1929. He and Lillian live in Washington PA. Lillian's hobbies are sewing and also doing things for her grandchildren.

- A. Carol Ann Bell b Dec 20-1942, see below
- B. Martha Jean Bell b Apr 12-1945, see below
- C. Edward Frank Bell b Apr 15-1948, see below

A. Carol Ann Bell Macomber

Carol was born in Washington in 1942. In high school she was very active in the musical program. She graduated (ØBK) from Allegheny College in 1963. She taught school for several years and was also a stock broker. On Feb 11-1977 she married William B. Macomber (b Sep 2-1930), of Kansas City MO. Bill was schooled at Princeton and Ohio State. He is now general manager of the explosives dept. of Gulf Oil Chemicals Co. Carol works at Winning Ways (warm-up suits) at Lenexa KS. She and Bill live at Leawood, Kansas.

B. Martha Jean Bell Butler

Marty was born in Washington in 1945. Throughout school she was active in music. She graduated in 1966 from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a B S in Home Economics. In 1966 she married Bill Butler of Washington, a V P I graduate. Bill is now a Lt. Commander in the U S Navy at Oceana VA. Earlier he was stationed at Whidby Island WA, Patuxent River MD, Honington UK. He was on two tours of duty to Vietnam. Bill's parents are George and Hazel (Davis) Butler of Washington.



Martha Jean Bell b Apr 12-1945 m Jun 5-1966 George William Butler  
 b May 7-1944. They now live at Virginia Beach VA. Their children are:  
 I. Kelly Alayne Butler b Apr 7-1968  
 II. Jeffrey Ward Butler b Jun 22-1970

### C. Edward Frank Bell

Ed was born at Washington in 1948. He was active in scouting, school music and church activities. In 1969 he received a B A from Washington and Jefferson College, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. His hobby in college was exploring caves. His summers were varied: 1966 working in a boy's camp near New York City, 1967 travel in the western United States, 1968 studying mathematics at Stevens Institute, 1969 working in oceanography at Woods Hole MA.

In 1973 he received the M D degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Since then he has been working in pediatrics, specializing in neonatology (newborn intensive care). To date, he has worked at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital and at hospitals associated with McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario and Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. At Brown his time is divided among supervising the intensive care unit for sick newborn infants; teaching residents, nurses and medical students; and clinical research activities. On July 1-1979 he will become Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the State University of Iowa in Iowa City.

In 1972 Ed married Elly Harris, daughter of Howard and Betty Harris of Kingston PA. Howard is a well-known pediatrician. Ed and Elly have traveled in a number of European countries. In 1970 and 1972 Ed spent summers at the Children's Hospital, Göttingen, B R D (Germany). He has published articles in a number of medical journals in this country and abroad. His college major was mathematics. He speaks and writes German and is trained in computer science.

Elly was graduated from Keuka College. She also has a nursing degree from Columbia and is a qualified pediatric nurse practitioner. She is pioneering as the first PNP to work in a private pediatric office in Rhode Island. She also teaches early pregnancy classes for expecting parents, and has completed a Junior League course for provisional members. Edward Frank Bell b Apr 15-1948 m Jun 3-1972 Ellyn Foster Harris b Feb 27-  
 I. Adam Martin Bell b Feb 23-1977 Hamilton, Ontario. (1949



b. Ralph Curtis Bell

Ralph was born near Lovington IL in 1876 and came to Pennsylvania in 1880. He lived from then until his death in 1968 on Crystal Spring Farm at Vira - farmed by his father, himself and his son, Clarence. Like his father he kept a diary most of his life. In 1895, 1896 and 1897 he attended Lewistown High School. He served as Superintendent of the Vira Methodist Sunday School from 1900 to 1950. He was a strong leader in the church, influencing many young ministers.

In 1903 he married Kathryn Pearl Alexander at Burnham PA. They lived to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Ralph served as Auditor of Derry Township, President of District Two County Sunday School Association, Clerk on North Derry election board, School Director and Secretary (36 years), bank stockholder and hospital trustee.

He was a prosperous and up-to-date farmer. As a loving and kind husband, father and uncle he is remembered best. His service to church, community and county was outstanding.

Pearl was born in 1880 at Mount Ayr, Iowa. She came to Pennsylvania in 1893. She attended Tuscarora Academy, Lewistown High School, Peddie Institute (Hightstown NJ) and Rider's Business College (Trenton NJ). She was a secretary at 170 Broadway, New York for several years before her marriage to Ralph Bell.

Pearl was primary superintendent and teacher in the Vira Sunday School for 35 years, adult class teacher for 24 years. She was active in the D A R, Daughters of Veterans, Mifflin County Sunday School Association, W C T U, Hospital Auxiliary, Historical Society, County P T A, and the Mothers' Assistance Board.

Her long life came to a close in 1972 at age 92, dying at the same age as Ralph ("Laddie"). She was a devoted wife and loving mother. Her home was the scene of many family and church gatherings and of the organizations to which she belonged. She always made folks feel much at home.

Ralph Curtis Bell b May 10-1876 d Oct 19-1968 m Mar 25-1903 Kathryn Pearl Alexander b Apr 2-1880 d Nov 7-1972

- i. Clarence Alexander Bell b Mar 22-1907, see below
- ii. Robert Martin Bell b Oct 11-1911 d Nov 25-1913
- iii. John Ralph Bell b May 4-1916, see below
- iv. Francis Burns Bell b May 12-1918, see below



i. Clarence Alexander Bell

Clarence still lives in the house in which he was born in 1907 on Crystal Spring Farm, Vira, Lewistown RD5. He carried on the work of his grandfather and father, farming the same farm until his retirement in 1973. Most of the Bells have enjoyed the hospitality of Crystal Spring.

Clarence graduated from Yeagertown High School in 1925. He and Raymond pioneered in television in 1930 at the farm, receiving one-inch pictures from Washington DC. In 1931 Clarence took a short course at Pennsylvania State University. In 1932 he married Dorothy Lantz at 714 Highland Avenue, Lewistown.

Clarence was active for many years in music; he also repaired many TV sets. He and Dorothy have always been active in the Vira United Methodist Church. Clarence was Sunday School superintendent, trustee and is still teaching a Sunday School class. He is now President of the Mifflin County Extension service; having served as Secretary for 15 years. He and Dorothy became great-grandparents in 1977 - on the same day that George & Sara did.

Dorothy was born in 1913 at Longfellow, Bratton Township, Mifflin Co. Her parents were Charles H and Madge Corbin Lantz. Her father died in the 1918 'flu epidemic. Before her marriage she worked at the American Viscose plant and was a member of the United Presbyterian Church on Electric Avenue. She taught a Sunday School class and was a member of the Maude Miller missionary society.

At Vira she has taught a class for about 30 years and is now an Assistant superintendent. For 20 years she was a 4-H leader, earning 5, 10, 15 and 20-year pins. She has also earned a 600-hour pin for volunteer work at the Lewistown Hospital. She is a member of the Republican party and has been township Judge of Elections for a dozen years. She is a member of the Executive Board of Republican Women of Action, Mifflin County, also serving as Hospitality Chairperson of that organization. She is a member of the Lewistown African Violet Society and of a social club called Sharabit. She is secretary of the Women's Committee of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association of Mifflin County; and Chairperson of the Administrative Board of the Vira Church.

Dorothy has traveled to the Holy Land, England, Hawaii, Germany and Switzerland. Her hobbies are doing handcrafts. Dorothy has lived in Pittsburgh and Reading as well as Lewistown.



Clarence Alexander Bell b Mar 22-1907 m Mar 2-1932

Dorothy Grace Lantz b Feb 21-1913

A. Barbara Ann Bell b Jun 5-1935, see below

A. Barbara Ann Bell Miduri

Barbara was born in 1935 at Crystal Spring Farm. She married Patrick Miduri in 1954 at the Vira United Methodist Church. She graduated from what is now Chief Logan High School in 1953 and Central Pennsylvania Business School in 1954. She has been employed at the State Capitol Commerce Department, Harrisburg Hospital, Joe the Motorist, Restaurant Equipment House, Mowery Enterprises and currently she is Administrative Assistant for R L Strawn Associates (Insurance).

Patrick was born in 1934 at Mount Union. His parents were Sosti and Mary Miduri. He graduated from Captain Jack High School in 1952. At present, he is a salesman for Restaurant Equipment House.

Barbara has water-color painting and sketching as a hobby. She takes art lessons and has had paintings in shows. She and Patrick lived at Linglestown, then Harrisburg, where their children were born - now they live at Mechanicsburg.

Barbara Ann Bell b Jun 5-1935 m Jun 20-1954

Patrick Miduri b Mar 11-1934

I. Paul Douglas Miduri b May 30-1955, see below

II. Kerin Lee Miduri b May 8-1957, see below

III. Kevin Michael Miduri b Dec 8-1961, see below

I. Paul Douglas Miduri

Douglas was born in 1955 and married in 1974 to Debra Ann Miller at the Shepherdstown United Methodist Church. He graduated from Mechanicsburg Area High School in 1973 and served in the Navy from Aug 9-1973 to Aug 9-1977. He had a 7-month cruise to the Mediterranean, visiting many ports. He spent 3 days in Rome and photographed many historical places. He is currently a machinist apprentice at the Harnish Tool Machine, Carlisle PA. He and Debra live at Enola.

Debra Ann Miller was born in 1955; her parents are Roy and Verna Miller. She graduated from Mechanicsburg Area High School in 1973 and from Radiological Technology School, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville FL in 1976. She currently works as Radiological Technologist at Harrisburg Hospital.



Paul Douglas Miduri b May 30-1955 m May 25-1974

Debra Ann Miller b Feb 10-1955

(1) Michael Paul Miduri b Jul 26-1977 Jacksonville FL

## II. Kerin Lee Miduri

Kerin, born in 1957, graduated from Mechanicsburg Area High School in 1975. She is currently at Blue Shield in Camp Hill with an apartment in Mechanicsburg.

III. Kevin Michael Miduri, born in 1961, will graduate from Mechanicsburg Area High School in 1979. He works part-time at Country Market Nursery. He has done art work at school. His hobby - cars.

## iii. John Ralph Bell

John was born at Vira in 1916. He was graduated from Yeagertown High School in 1934 and attended Millersville State College. In 1941 he married June Beatrice Miller at 415 West 4th St., Lewistown. June was born in 1917 at Joller, Pa - a town named for her grandfather, JOHN MILLER. June's parents were George Edward and Clare Marie (Cook) Miller. She was graduated from Lewistown High School in 1936 and then studied Beauty Culture at Harrisburg.

John started to work for International Harvester in 1937. The record:

Feb 1937	Harrisburg PA	Salesman	Jun 1955	Cebu P I	Branch manager
Feb 1940	Philadelphia	Service mgr	Nov 1963	Manila P I	Sales mgr
Feb 1944	Elmira NY	"	Sep 1965	Chicago IL	Sales engineer
Jan 1946	Boston MA	"	Jan 1967	Salisbury,	
Sep 1946	Chicago IL	Instructor		Rhodesia	Sales mgr
Dec 1946	Afghanistan	Service mgr	Jan 1969	Johannesburg	Sales rep
Nov 1949	Bombay, India	Sales rep	1971	Territorial,	1975 Area mgr
October 1978 Retired at Lewistown - Product consultant for I. H.					

John has been in 55 countries, his wife and son in 30. In 1947 he went to India and Afghanistan. He was in Peshawar on August 14-1947 when Pakistan was made a country. He flew from Peshawar to Gilgit and stayed in the palace. In Kabul, Afghanistan a house was shared with a family from the American Consulate. The chief means of transportation was by camel caravans or International trucks. He had 800 trucks assembled in Peshawar and driven to Kabul. Son, Martin, was born in Bombay in 1950. Trips home meant a flight around the world. Many interesting places were seen.



While in Cebu, Philippines June began to make candles for the church to sell at Christmas and for charity bazaars. She still makes candles with over 200 moulds and a candle collection of 300 different candles she has made. Her candles have appeared on TV and have been written up in newspapers. In Salisbury, Rhodesia she got interested in knitting with a knitting machine. She has two machines - one electric, one by hand.

Their home in Kempton Park, a suburb of Johannesburg, was much like the United States. John wrote; "The highlight of our stay in South Africa was our association with the boating and skiing group. We attended many races and championship events. We were very proud of Martin, when he became the first man in the world to ski barefoot towed by a helicopter."

John Ralph Bell b May 4-1916 m Feb 19-1941

June Beatrice Miller b Jun 4-1917

A. Martin Clarence Bell b Dec 15-1950

#### A. Martin Clarence Bell

Martin ("Sandy") has had an interesting life. Here is a log:  
 1950 born Bombay, India; 1952 flew by jet to Ceylon; 1953 first trip around the world - visit with grandparents; 1955 attended Cebu American School; 1957 second trip around the world; 1963 school at De La Salle College, Manila, belonged to Manila Yacht Club, got first boat, learned to ski; 1965 third trip around the world, Evanston (Ill) High School, became scuba diver; 1967 Prince Edward Boys School, Salisbury, Rhodesia, joined Les Buown Swimming Club, active in boating and trick skiing; 1969 entered in South African Grand Prix boat race on the Vaal River - New Year's Day; entered West Nottingham Academy, Colora, Maryland; 1970 graduated West Nottingham, attended Roanoke College, Salem, Va; 1971 enrolled at University of Cape Town, on rowing team, swam, skied; 1974 worked as apprentice for airline company; 1975 joined South African Barefoot Skiing Association, holds 19 badges; 1979 works for boat company, lives at Berea, Johannesburg, South Africa.



#### iv. Francis Burns Bell

Francis was born on Mother's Day 1918 at Crystal Spring Farm, Lewistown PA. He graduated from Yeagertown High School in 1936. In 1938 he married Norene Larue Musser at Baltimore. In 1939 they moved to Baltimore, where Francis started to work at the Glen L Martin Company. During World War II he served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. Community services include Sunday School Superintendent at the Protestant Community U C C, church council member and scoutmaster.

He enjoys outdoor sports and has skied at Aspen, Colorado; Lake Tahoe, Arizona; Utah and all over the East coast. Francis enjoys running and bicycle riding. He rides his bike to the Martin Company, where he is now in his 40th year of service.

Norene was born in 1920 at Lewistown. She completed work at Lewistown High School in 1938. She worked as an assistant librarian in the Baltimore County Library. She helped in the church and schools on special projects and P T A programs. Since her death in 1978 she is greatly missed.

Francis Burns Bell b May 12-1918 m Aug 1-1938

Norene Larue Musser b Dec 12-1920 d May 17-1978

A. Robert Francis Bell b Jun 19-1939, see below

B. Nancy Suzanne Bell b Nov 23-1944, see below

C. Richard Frederick Bell b Jun 30-1952, see below

D. Terry Curtis Bell b Mar 14-1954, see below

#### A. Robert Francis Bell

Robert was born in 1939 at Vira. He graduated from Kenwood High School in Essex MD in 1957 and joined the Navy. He spent 20 years in the Navy, most of the time on submarines in Norfolk VA. His travels included Europe, South America, Greenland, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean. In 1977 he retired with the rating of Electrician 1st class (ss). He now works in Perryville MD for the V A Hospital as renovating electrician and lives in Conowingo MD.

In 1973 Robert married Diane Margret Hart, born in Baltimore in 1947, daughter of Edward and Margret Hart. She graduated from Overlea High School (MD) in 1965 and served in the Navy from 1965 to 1967.

Robert Francis Bell b Jun 19-1939 m1 Mar 20-1957 Beulah Virginia Jones,  
m2 Jan 12-1961 Phyllis Funkhouser, m3 Jun 16-1973 Diane Margret Hart

I. Gary Kurtis Bell b Oct 9-1961

(b Mar 8-1947)

II. Reni Suzette Bell b Jan 9-1964



### B. Nancy Bell Quental

Nancy was born in 1944 in Baltimore. She graduated from Kenwood High School in 1962, and worked for the Baltimore County libraries for three years. In 1965 she married Paul W Johnson Jr, who was at that time attending Drexel University in Philadelphia. Nancy and Paul lived in Philadelphia until Paul graduated in 1967. Then they moved back to Baltimore and Nancy began her college education at Towson University. She graduated in September 1971 with a B S in Elementary Education and taught school for five years. Nancy has been playing the organ and directing the choir at her church since 1961. Paul was active in the church and on the church council. Two daughters were born, Tina and Jessica.

Paul worked for several years as a metallurgical engineer at Armco Steel Corporation, Baltimore. Paul, Nancy and Tina traveled in Europe and the western United States skiing. In February 1975 Paul was killed in a skiing accident at Park City, Utah.

In 1976 Nancy married C Robert Quental and moved to Glen Arm MD.  
Nancy Suzanne Bell b Nov 23-1944 m1 Paul Wallace Johnson Apr 17-1965  
b Apr 9-1944 d Feb 10-1975 m2 1976 Charles Robert Quental

I. Tina Monique Johnson b Nov 12-1965

II. Jessica Layne Johnson b Feb 16-1974

### C. Richard Frederick Bell

Richard was born in Baltimore in 1952 and graduated from Kenwood High in 1971. While in high school he enlisted in the Navy and volunteered for Submarine Service. He served on the U S S Harder until his discharge in December 1973. Currently he is manager for Cox's Amoco and Carwash in Essex MD. In 1972 Richard married Jeanne L Brooks, born in Baltimore in 1942, daughter of Evelyn and Carl Brooks. She graduated from Glen Burnie (MD) High School in 1960 and worked for a few years as legal secretary for a law office. She is a member of St John's Lutheran Church Ladies Class and is manager of the Popular Club Factory Outlet Store. They live in Essex MD. RFB b Jun 3-1952 m February 1972 Jeanne b Dec 8-'42.

I. Richard Frederick Bell b Jun 21-1973

D. Terry Curtis Bell, born in Baltimore 1954, married Antoinette Tylus in 1971. Terry is a sheet metal worker in Washington DC. His wife is employed with Maryland National Bank. They live in Glen Burnie MD.

Terry Curtis Bell b Mar 14-1954 m July 30-1971 Antoinette Tylus

I. Shawn Jeffrey Bell b Jun 19-1972



## 2. JOHN FOSTER BELL

Foster was born in 1844 in the White House on the Vira farm. As a young man he became interested in the ministry, joining the newly-formed Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1869. He served for nine years as pastor in:

1869-70 Warrior's Mark; 1870-73 Osceola; 1873-75 Beech Creek;  
1875-76 Pine Grove; 1876-78 Woodland

In 1873 he married Rie Naginey of Milroy. Never very strong he became ill of typhoid fever at Woodland, returned home to Vira and died at his father's in the Brown House in 1878. He was buried at Reedsville.

He was a consecrated minister of rare qualifications of mind and heart. Earnestly he sought to save souls. He won the hearts of the people by his unaffected simplicity of manners and his gentleness of spirit.

His widow lived at Milroy and survived him by 55 years. Her home was always a haven for ministers. It was a pleasant place for her nieces and nephews to visit.

John Foster Bell b Oct 16-1844 d Mar 5-1878 m Feb 20-1873 Maria Emory Naginey b Mar 17-1848 d Jan 14-1933

a. Alfred Emory Bell b Dec 9-1873 d Jun 13-1875

b. John Thompson Bell b Jul 10-1876

### b. John Thompson Bell

John was born in 1876. Before he was two he lost his minister father. He attended Lafayette College and entered the Central Pennsylvania Conference as a minister in 1900. A consecrated young man of marked ability he served churches in Blain, Belleville, Yeagertown, Clearfield, Watson-town and Bedford until his health failed. He died at Bedford PA in 1922. His sermons were filled with true every-day religion. He was genial, generous and helpful. In 1897 he married Claudia Kitchen of Easton PA. She died at Bedford in 1932.

John Thompson Bell b Jul 10-1876 d Mar 27-1922 m May 24-1897 Claudia Kitchen b May 4-1876 d Oct 9-1932

i. Emery Mack Bell b Oct 10-1898 d Mar 6-1960. She was talented in music.

She lived at Bedford and Easton.

ii. Helen Vesper Bell b Dec 28-1909, see below



ii. Helen Bell Tinchler

Helen was born in 1909. She, too, was a good musician. In 1930 she married Edgar Morris and lived in the Philadelphia area. In 1960 she married John Tinchler and lived at Long Meadow MA until her death in 1977.

Helen Vesper Bell b Dec 28-1909 d Feb 14-1977 m1 Jun 5-1930

Edgar Dunbar Morris, m2 Nov 11-1960 John L Tinchler

A. John Smith Morris II b Dec 7-1931, see below

B. James Edgar Morris b Oct 20-1933, see below

C. Claudia Emery Morris b Apr 14-1943, see below

A. John Smith Morris II

John was born in Bryn Mawr in 1931. He was first married to Joan Madden. He is now married to Barbara Marks, b 1929 in Danville PA. He was graduated as an engineer from Lehigh University in 1953 and works for Du Pont Company as Manager for the Recording Systems business internationally out of Wilmington, Delaware. He belongs to Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville DE and has been an officer in Kennett Square Country Club. He and Barbara live at Chadds Ford PA.

John Smith Morris II b Dec 7-1931 m1 May 21-1955 Joan Madden

m2 Barbara Marks

I. John Smith Morris III b Mar 4-1960 Wilmington DE, attends Bowdoin College

II. Thomas Foster Morris b May 15-1962 Hartford CT

III. Paul Frank Morris b Jun 25-1968 Chicago IL

B. James Edgar Morris b Oct 20-1933, Episcopal minister at Philadelphia m1 Aug 9-1954 Jane Seltzer, m2 Sep 10-1966 Shirley Joan Clark

I. David James Morris b Dec 16-1967

II. Stephen Clark Morris b Jan 27-1970

C. Claudia Morris Balicki

Claudia was born in 1943 at Bryn Mawr. She married Jun 8-1968 Philip L Balicki. She graduated from Bay Path Junior College 1965 in science. She was a stewardess for American Airlines 1965-69 and now works in Personnel and Sales. Philip Leon Balicki has an M S from Trinity College 1968, Biochemistry and an M B A from the University of Connecticut 1972. He is a Marketing Administration Manager for Olin Ski Company.



### 3. JAMES ELLIS BELL

Ellis was born in 1846 in Dry Valley, just over the hill from Vira. The Vira minister in 1868 gave him an exhorter's license. He always had the ministry as his goal. He attended Dickinson Seminary at Williamsport and was graduated from Northwestern University at Evanston IL in 1876. He then attended Garrett Seminary. His appointments in the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Episcopal Conference were:

1878-81	Grace, Williamsport
1881-83	Duncannon
1883-86	Hollidaysburg
1886-89	Bedford
1889-93	Grace, Williamsport
1893-98	Eighth Avenue, Altoona
1898-1900	Chambersburg
1900-06	District superintendent, Altoona District
1906-11	First, York
1911-16	Chambersburg
1916-17	First, Berwick
1917-21	Mechanicsburg

He retired to 250 East Market Street, York in 1921 and continued to supply pulpits until his death in 1932.

In 1880 he married June Waters, daughter of Plummer and Elsie Waters. Plummer was a Methodist minister in the Baltimore Conference. Elsie, as a widow, moved to Huntingdon County and later married James H McGarrah (1830-1899), a Methodist minister in the Central Pennsylvania Conference. June died in 1930, not long after she and Ellis had their golden wedding anniversary. June was a good helpmate, a gracious lady of the parsonage.

Ellis was the founder of the Bell reunion in 1929. Summers were spent at Ocean Grove NJ. He was known affectionately as the Dean of the Bell Clan. He admonished his greatnieces and nephews with "Uncle Ellis does not like a quitter". A good administrator and effective preacher, he served well the church he loved, doing his best for his Savior.

There were four daughters: Grace, Elsie, Marion and Lois. Marion worked for a number of years in the Health Department at the state capitol in Harrisburg. Lois taught children in school for over 50 years in all sorts of interesting situations:

tutoring in York, small school in York, Plainfield Seminary, Miss Thurston's School in East Liberty, York Collegiate Institute, Market Street school, Gilman Boy's School and Samuel Ready School for Girls (both in Baltimore), York County Day School, York Public Schools - teaching three generations.

Grace and Elsie married. Their mother, June, was a graduate of Irving College, Mechanicsburg PA.



Lois writes:

"Our education was rather casual by today's standards. I always thought we had an inheritance of learning: Wilson College Prep, Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, York Collegiate Institute and many sessions at summer schools - with plenty of travel here and abroad. Naturally we were all members of the Methodist Church - no unrest in us, good or bad, as that may be. We were obedient to our Methodist background all our lives - the four of us. Politics the same as Father - no unruly daughters - good straight Republicans. When it comes to travel we were born with the love of change, true daughters of our itinerant father. The thought of home in a new place was always exciting. Sad to leave the old friends, eager and curious to make new. Marion and I, being unencumbered, had three European trips together. The first during World War I, where we were held up in Paris. We got home safely to Chambersburg, through blackout and chases by German submarines. In our later years Marion and I went with Gertrude Bell Williams and Dora Thomas for quite a long trip through northern Europe. Three years later, we four went again, this time to southern Europe and had another adventure, just perfect. We had our own itinerary and traveled independently. 'Oh happy days, I sing your praise', young and carefree. Marion and I now live comfortably at 300 East Market Street, York - where the welcome sign is out. We are in the midst of Buckinghams, old and young. What better could we single souls wish!"

James Ellis Bell b Aug 4-1846 d Mar 21-1932 m Jan 15-1880

Juniata Waters b Apr 13-1853 d Mar 16-1930

a. Grace Bowman Bell b Mar 9-1881, see below

b. Mary Elsie Bell b Mar 23-1883, see below

c. Marion Ellis Bell b Nov 23-1886

d. Lois Jordan Bell b May 15-1889

a. Grace Bell Kiser

Grace was born in 1881. She attended Wilson College in Chambersburg and in 1904 married Will Kiser of Pittsburgh. Will was with the Bank of Pittsburgh. He and Grace lived in Wilkinsburg until 1907, when they moved to Ben Avon, a suburb 7 miles north of Pittsburgh, where they lived the rest of their lives. Will died in 1936, Grace in 1952. She was always a worker in the Methodist Church and its women's societies, The Woman's Club and the Y W C A.



Grace Bowman Bell b Mar 9-1881 d Jun 30-1952 m Oct 5-1904

William Murdock Kiser b Dec 14-1872 d Apr 3-1936

i. Elizabeth Bell Kiser b Oct 10-1905, see below

ii. Virginia Bell Kiser b Jan 23-1907, see below

iii. June Waters Kiser b May 9-1913, see below

iv. William Murdock Kiser b Jun 15-1918, see below

i. Elizabeth Kiser Harper

Elizabeth was born in 1905. She married Orpheus Harper in 1925. She attended Hood College and Carnegie Tech. Orph attended Pitt, was in the Army 2 years and then worked for his father, a building contractor. Elizabeth writes: "We went to Florida in 1925, stayed a year. Orph and a friend built several houses in Coral Gables. Then we came home for a visit. The big hurricane hit Florida in September 1926 and we stayed home in Pennsylvania. We built our own home and Orph became a building contractor. He built many homes in Mount Lebanon and Ben Avon Heights. We had two children. Bob was an asthmatic and we were told California would be more healthful for him. So we came to Van Nuys CA in August 1944 and have lived in California ever since."

Elizabeth Bell Kiser b Oct 10-1905 m Sep 3-1925

Orpheus Milton Harper b Sep 3-1896 d Aug 27-1975

A. June Waters Harper b Oct 31-1934, see below

B. Robert Brook Harper b Dec 1-1937, see below

A. June Harper Erhart

June was born in Ben Avon PA on Hallow E'en 1934. In 1954 she married Dr Robert Erhart in Los Angeles. Education: 2 years University of Southern California; 1 year Wright-McMahan Secretarial, Beverly Hills. Jobs: Household Engineer - with volunteer activities such as National Charity League; Southern California Assistance League; Board of Directors, Southern California Prevention of Blindness; Chairman, Corporation Board for Kappa Kappa Gamma. Travel: Mexico, Hawaii, Society Islands, Iberian Penin.

Robert Erhart born Los Angeles 1929, son of Dr C H Erhart. Education: 8 years University of Southern California, Graduate of School of Dentistry, Phi Gamma Delta, Psi Upsilon Dental Honorary, American Dental Society, Captain, U S Army Dental Corps. Interests: Tennis, Surfing, Jewelry Making, Travel in Camper.



June Waters Harper b Oct 31-1934 m May 1-1954

Robert Sterling Erhart b Apr 22-1929

- I. Robert Sterling Erhart b Dec 23-1954 Attended Army-Navy Military Academy, Oceanside CA; graduated Harvard Prep School, North Hollywood CA; employed in film industry, animating film cartoons for T V; travel in Mexico and Hawaii; interest, surf boarding, has been ranked nationally 11th and 12th in this sport.
- II. Kelly Byers Erhart b Feb 10-1956 Attended Argyll Episcopal Academy; Valley Junior College; Oregon College, Ashland OR; Lane Community College, Eugene OR. Has dental hygiene degree, Now dental assistant. Ranked surfer on west coast.
- III. M'Lissa Hunter Erhart b Sep 7-1957 Attended North Hollywood High School; Valley Junior College; University of Southern California; Senior, majoring in Psychology. Member Kappa Kappa Gamma. Snow skiing.
- IV. June Waters Erhart b Jul 9-1959 Attended North Hollywood High School; Valley Junior College. Major, Secretarial Science. Currently, Office Manager for Toyota Car Dealer. Water Skiing, Needlework, Tennis.

B. Robert Brook Harper

Robert was born in 1937. He married Mary Wheeler in 1960, a week after graduating from California State University at Northridge. He went to work for Douglas (McDonnell-Douglas) and lived in Granada Hills. In 1966 he transferred to Cape Canaveral, Kennedy Space Center and lived on Merritt Island until 1975. He was transferred back to California. He now lives at home.

Robert Brook Harper b Dec 1-1937 m Jun 11-1960

Mary Wheeler b Aug 1-1941

- I. Elizabeth Lynn Harper b May 21-1961, attends Mira Costa High School, is on drill team, sews.
- II. Victoria Lorane Harper b Jun 21-1962, attends Mira Costa High School, is on flag team, sews.
- III. Robert Orpheus Harper b Dec 10-1968, skate boarder, swimmer, soccer.

ii. Virginia Kiser Rhodes

Virginia was born in 1907 and married Bill Rhodes in 1936. Virginia, a Physical Education major, taught gym, swimming and hygiene in a Pittsburgh High School until her marriage. Bill, a graduate of Allegheny



College in Meadville PA, was with the Duquesne Light Company until 1943, when he joined a Pittsburgh firm selling non-ferrous metals. In 1955 he went to work for Pennsylvania Industrial Supplies Company, a non-ferrous metals warehouse in Pittsburgh, where he became Vice-President in charge of Sales, and retired in 1975. As of 1979 he is working on a consulting basis for the same firm.

Virginia keeps busy at the Church, at Womans Club, in a Drama Group and doing volunteer work every Monday at the Suburban Hospital.

Bill plays golf. They have one son, Bill.

Virginia Bell Kiser b Jan 23-1907 m Feb 15-1936

William Harrison Rhodes Jr b Aug 10-1905

A. William Harrison Rhodes III b Dec 15-1938, see below

#### A. William Harrison Rhodes III

Bill was born in 1938. He went to General Motors Institute in Flint MI for a year after graduating from high school. Then he enlisted in the Navy for 2 years. After his training at Great Lakes Naval Training School, he spent his enlistment time on the aircraft carrier, The Valley Forge. Bill graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1964. After spending sometime with Phelps Dodge Copper Corp. and Mueller Brass Co., he now has his own business as a manufacturer's representative, dealing in heating and refrigeration equipment. In 1968 he married Patricia Grosso of Elizabeth NJ. A daughter, Susan, was born in 1969. In 1975 Bill married Anita James Adams of Laurinburg NC. They now live in Concord NC. Bill's hobby is rebuilding automobiles, mainly Corvettes. He is head judge of the National Association of Corvette Restorers.

William Harrison Rhodes III b Dec 15-1938 m1 Jul 6-1968 Patricia Grosso  
m2 1975 Anita James Adams

I. Susan Kiser Rhodes b Jun 1-1969

#### iii. June Kiser White

June was born in 1913 in Ben Avon. She married Stuart White in 1940. He was born in Streator IL in 1911 and died in Rancho Bernardo in 1972. Stuart was an officer in the Navy. The 3 children were born at Honolulu, San Diego and Newport RI. June went to Greenbrier and Stuart to Antioch. Stuart retired at 58 and he and June moved to Rancho Bernardo, hoping for long lazy years of golf in the great climate of San Diego. He died a



year later. June writes: "We joined the Community Church. We have a wonderful minister and the best choir I have ever heard. I enjoy Woman's Society, Circle meetings, etc. Since Stuart died, I have taken cruises, revisited the Far East, been to Europe twice. I play golf, do volunteer work at the hospital and at the library. I often see the children."

June Waters Kiser b May 9-1913 m Dec 24-1940

Thomas Stuart White b Jul 20-1911 d Jun 28-1972

A. Robert MacDonald White b Jan 1-1942, see below

B. Thomas Stuart White Jr b Sep 7-1943, see below

C. Joseph Kiser White b Mar 1-1947, graduate of Duke, lives in Atlanta.

A. Robert MacDonald White

Bob was born in 1942. In 1976 he married Susan Lynch. He is a graduate of Princeton with a Master's from Georgia Tech. He is an engineer in the Law Engineering Corporation. He and Susan live in Atlanta GA.

Robert MacDonald White b Jan 1-1942 m March 1976 Susan Lynch

I. Cindy White

II. Stuart White

B. Thomas Stuart White Jr

Tom was born in 1943. He married Carol Unger in 1969. He is a graduate of Duke and is Vice-President of Blythe, Eastman, Dillon. He and Carol live in Chicago.

Thomas Stuart White Jr b Sep 7-1943 m Nov 29-1969 Carol Unger

I. Candace Ann White b Sep 19-1972

II. Thomas Stuart White III b Aug 25-1975

iv. William Murdock Kiser Jr

Bill was born in 1918 and graduated from Ben Avon High School in 1936. He worked for Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, and Colonna Manufacturing Company, subsidiary of Pittsburgh Screw and Bolt Company. In 1941 he joined the Army and was in the Ordnance Branch at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. In 1943 he transferred to the Air Force, trained in P38's and was stationed in the South Pacific as a fighter pilot. He flew escort at war's end for the Japanese, who came to sign the peace treaty. Since 1945 Bill has lived in Pasadena CA. He is in the Real Estate business and plays golf and bridge.



b. Elsie Bell Buckingham

Elsie was born in 1883 and died in 1970. She married Lew Buckingham in 1910. He was born in 1869 and died in 1938. They lived in York PA. Being a true Bell, Elsie lived life to the fullest and at times perhaps over did it. Lew was heard to say on occasion: "You just never get a-head of a Bell!" But how she loved it!!

Mary Elsie Bell b Mar 23-1883 d Jul 14-1970 m Jun 28-1910

Lewis Emory Westwood Buckingham b Jun 23-1869 d May 25-1938

i. Henry McGinley Buckingham b Apr 9-1911, see below

ii. Mary Elizabeth Buckingham b Mar 12-1914, see below

iii. James Ellis Buckingham b Oct 19-1915, see below

iv. Lewis Bell Buckingham b Oct 19-1915, see below

i. Henry McGinley Buckingham

Henry was born in York in 1911. He married Lewraine Twaddell Magee in 1939. Henry graduated 19M29 from William Penn Senior High and Dickinson College in 1933 with an A B debree. He taught at South Fork (PA) High School from 1936 to 1941. His C P A (Pennsylvania) in 1947 led to his present partnership in Heckert and Buckingham, formed in 1960. Parishioner in St. Joseph Catholic Church; in 1971 Henry became first lay chairman of Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Harrisburg. Now serving on Diocesan committee for Parish financing.

Henry is a working member of the York Twinning Association, serving as treasurer and director. This has inspired two trips to Europe. Works at hobby of golf, also enjoys bridge and enforced yard work. He has lived in six places in York, also in Hanover and South Fork.

Lewraine was born in 1914 to Esther Frey Magee and D Frank Magee in Hershey PA. She was a William Penn graduate and graduated ØBK with an A B degree from Cornell University in 1936. She entered Enoch Pratt Free Library training school in Baltimore 1936-37 and was employed in the system until 1939. She had a full-time career in mothering 1940-61, then became assistant librarian at York Catholic High School and is still at it. Lewraine is a member of St. Joseph Church and has various jobs in York District Council Catholic Women and in Catholic Woman's Club of York. As board member of York Hospital Auxiliary and treasurer, she chaired the original Art Project committee. She still pushes the Art Cart to patient rooms. She went to Oxford, England at the time of Andrew Graham's birth, and to Arles, France, York's sister city, in 1978.



Henry McGinley Buckingham b Apr 9-1911 m Nov 18-1939

Lewraine Twaddell Magee b Jul 23-1914

A. Marion Bell Buckingham b Aug 21-1940, see below

B. Lewraine Twaddell Buckingham b Feb 26-1942, see below

C. Jeanne Elizabeth Buckingham b Aug 29-1943, see below

D. David Francis Buckingham b Apr 4-1946, see below

E. Henry Michael Buckingham b Sep 22-1947, see below

F. Anne Frey Buckingham b Dec 12-1951, see below

#### A. Marion Buckingham Bielefelt

Marion was born in 1940, married John Bielefelt in 1968. Catholic University, Washington DC, graduate B S in biology 1962, M S 1964. Now in doctoral program in biochemistry with assistantship at Louisiana State. John is hotel-motel finance consultant for a Milwaukee firm. They live in New Orleans LA. Firm = Mortgage Guarantee Investment Company. Marion Bell Buckingham b Aug 21-1940 m Jul 13-1968 John Ferdinand Bielefelt  
I. Melina Esther Bielefelt b Nov 16-1968 (twin John d Nov 18-1968)  
II. Laura Cathelin b Nov 16-1970

#### B. Lewraine Buckingham Graham

Lewraine was born in 1942, married Peter Graham in 1969. Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, A B 1964. Art schools in New York, New Haven and Oxford, England, studying painting and sculpture. Lew has earned Honorable Mention in a juried show in Connecticut, piquing her desire to paint full-time. Peter is on the staff of University of Indiana in library computer science. They live in Bloomington IN.

Lewraine Twaddell Buckingham b Feb 26-1942 m Dec 27-1969 Peter S Graham

I. Andrew Harold Graham b Mar 9-1973

II. Rae Lewraine Graham b Apr 7-1975

#### C. Jeanne Buckingham Mangan

Jeanne was born in 1943, married Peter J Mangan in 1968. University of Maryland, A B 1965, ØBK and Mortar Board. Vista volunteer 1965-66, living in a mining hollow around Little Creek KY: cooking for school children, sewing, teaching, chopping wood, singing and making good friends. Completed course in Education at York College in 1976. Now living in York and teaching English at York Catholic High School.



Jeanne Elizabeth Buckingham b Aug 29-1943 m Jul 27-1968 Peter J Mangan

I. Jane Erin Mangan b Sep 27-1969

II. Brendan David Mangan b Jun 22-1971

III. Alice Varley Mangan b Jun 22-1971

#### D. David Francis Buckingham

David was born in 1946. He attended University of Maryland 1964-66, then joined U S Marine Corps, serving until 1969, with a year in Vietnam. Graduated University of Maryland 1972, B S in Business and Economics, Omicron Delta Kappa, honorary. Auburn University, M S in Guidance 1976. Appalachian Regional Commission in Education division employs David at its Washington (DC) headquarters. He travels to various sites where the commission's satellite program is beamed to teachers in depressed areas, with courses in vocation counseling and reading improvement. He lives at Washington DC.

#### E. Henry Michael Buckingham

Henry was born in 1947. Pennsylvania State University, A B 1969, Politics and Government. U S Army: stationed at Höchst Kasserne, Frankfurt, Germany 1969-72. Spent the next year skiing and seeing Europe on his own before tackling M B A graduate program at Penn State, complete in 1976. C P A (Pennsylvania) 1978. Now a senior accountant with Heckert and Buckingham. He lives at York PA.

#### F. Anne Buckingham Jones

Anne was born in 1951. Immaculata Junior College, Washington DC 1969-71. York College 1973, B S in elementary education. Taught kindergarten 1973-78 at St. Rose of Lima school, York, while studying Millersville State College. Has become certified in special education. She married Jeff Jones in 1977. Jeff is the owner of Jones Garage Door Service, York. They live in York PA.

Anne Frey Buckingham b Dec 12-1951 m Aug 27-1977 Jeffrey A Jones

I. Caroline Magee Jones b Nov 16-1978



ii. Mary Buckingham Shoemaker

Mary was born in 1914. She joined a church choir, met her future husband, Bill Shoemaker, and married him in 1940. Bill was in transportation (railroading in the beginning, air later on). This supplied Mary with an annual pass for her whole married life and a life full of moves until they landed in North Brunswick NJ. That was the last move prior to retirement. Like a number of other "Bells", Mary taught school.

Mary Elizabeth Buckingham b Mar 14-1914 m Jun 22-1940

William Herbert Shoemaker b Nov 7-1916

A. Kathryn Anne Shoemaker b Mar 28-1942; she obtained a doctor's degree in Home Economics and taught in college, until she married Larry Lobley and moved to Wichita Falls TX. Presently, Kitty is teaching on the high school level. Marriage date = Dec 31-1975.

B. William Herbert Shoemaker Jr b Nov 19-1946; Bill, too, earned a doctor's degree, but his was in medicine. He looks forward to private practice in Family Practice in Charleston SC.

C. Thomas Wendell Shoemaker b Sep 4-1950. Earned a Master's in Education and later took a course in television and radio. He is now employed in radio in Naugatuck CT. He and Karen McCormick were married Jun 28-1975.

iii. James Ellis Buckingham

Jim was born in 1915 at York. He married Nancy Shull in 1941.

Education: William Penn High School 1933; Swarthmore College 1937, B A in History/English, Kappa Sigma, Book and Key, Varsity Football and Basketball; Law School, University of Pennsylvania 1948.

Employment: Sales Apprentice, American Chain Company 1937-39; Haines Shoe Company 1939-40; Judson E Ruch, Attorney, June 1949 - May 1950; Associated in law with Benjamin Weinbrom, May - October 1950; Practiced independently, April 1952 - January 1955; Staff attorney for State Workmen's Insurance Fund, 1950 - January 1955; Joined firm of Markowitz, Liverant, Kagen, Boyle and Rauhauser, 1955-61.

Politics: Judge of Common Pleas Court, York County PA 1961-present.

Church: Asbury United Methodist Church; member, Administrative Board.

Memberships: York County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations; Y M C A; Historical Society; former member, Rotary Club, Y's Men's Club of Y M C A, boards of directors York Symphony Orchestra and United Way.

Military Service: 1941-46 mainly in U S; 1950-52 Korea and Japan.

Travel: Europe, Britain. Hobby: Golf.



Nancy Shull was born in 1918 at Apollo PA, parents, Edna Shirey Shull, Youngstown PA and D Carl Shull, Juniata Crossings PA. Education: William Penn High School 1935; Prowell Business College 1938. Employment: Secretary, York Safe and Lock Company 1938-43; Secretary, Tarrant Field, Fort Worth TX 1943; Registrar's Office, Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia 1947.

Church: Asbury United Methodist, member, Administrative Board.

Memberships: Board of Directors, United Way; Life Member Y W C A; involved with P T A, Girl Scouts, York Symphony. Presently, Area Representative, American Field Service.

Travel: Europe, Britain. Hobbies: Gardening, Skiing, Refinishing Antiques.

James Ellis Buckingham b Oct 19-1915 m Jul 12-1941

Nancy Anne Shull b Nov 10-1918

A. Lois Bell Buckingham b Feb 9-1948, see below

B. Jane Ellis Buckingham b Mar 11-1951, see below

#### A. Lois Buckingham Trezise

Lois was born in Philadelphia in 1948. She married Jim Trezise in 1969. Education: Girl Scouts; York Suburban High School 1966 (Nat'l Honor Society); Allegheny College B A in German 1970 (briefly KAT, Alden Scholar, Owain); Junior Year Abroad, University of Marburg, Germany 1968-69; School of Midwifery, Medical School, University of Besancon, France 1973-76. Travel: Denmark and Austria, Lions Exchange Program; England, India, Ceylon, Girl Scout/Girl Guide Convention in Colombo, living with Samanyka family 1967; Puerto Rico 1970. Employment: Planned Parenthood, Washington DC 1970-73; Staff Nurse, Hospital of Georgetown University, Washington DC; Staff Member, Booth Maternity Center, Philadelphia; C N M; Registered Nurse; Member, American College of Nurse Midwives. Interests: Cooking, sewing, crocheting, politics of midwifery.

Jim Trezise was born in Rochester NY in 1947. His parents: Harry N and Mona Westfall Trezise. Education: West High School, Rochester; Allegheny College B S in Psychology 1968 (Alden Scholar, Varsity Football, Phi Delta Theta); American University M S in International Communications 1974; École des Beaux Arts, University of Besancon, France 1973-76. Employment: U S Navy 1968-72; English Teacher, Language Institute, University of Besancon 1975-76; Researcher and writer for Conrail in Washington DC and now Philadelphia; Free Lance Writer. Travel: Europe.



Collaboration with James Stovall and Hamid Mowlana on "Watergate, a Crisis for the World". Interests: Pottery, photography. cooking.

Lois Bell Buckingham b Feb 9-1948 m Nov 27-1969

James Scott Trezise b Sep 17-1947. Now living in Philadelphia.

#### B. Jane Buckingham Watson

Jane was born in York PA in 1951. She married William Watson in 1976. Education: University of Madrid, Spain, summer 1968; York Suburban H S (N H S) 1969; Gettysburg College B A in Spanish (with honors) 1973; Junior Year Abroad, University of Madrid 1971-72; École des Beaux Arts, University of Besancon, France. Employment: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, evaluating employees of the Department of Employment Security; Library, Gettysburg College; Pizigalli Construction Company (girl Friday and Spanish translator); Planned Parenthood. Travel: Gettysburg to Ottawa, Canada and return by bicycle; England to Australia to United States. Interested in pottery. Now living in Burlington VT.

William was born in Doylestown PA in 1949. His parents: Warren Buckman and Margaret Worstall Watson. Education: Central Bucks High School 1967; Pennsylvania State University B S in Human Development 1972; School of Nursing, University of Vermont 1977-79. Employment: Fisherman and Her Majesty's Park Service; Robert Crouthamel, Gettysburg PA; Masseur and Manager, Y M C A Health Club, Burlington. Travel: Australia. Interests: Land conservation; pilot of small aircraft.

Jane Ellis Buckingham b Mar 11-1951 m Apr 17-1976

Warren William Watson b Apr 19-1949

I. James Tully Watson b Oct 11-1978

#### iv. Lewis Bell Buckingham

Lewis was born in York in 1915. In 1941 he married Naomi Pentz, born in York in 1917. Lewis and Naomi grew up in York PA. Both attended public schools in York. Lewis matriculated from York Collegiate Institute and went to Dickinson College for a year. He served in the Army Air Force in World War II and then returned to York. He entered the insurance field as an adjuster. He was employed by Keystone Auto Club, Philadelphia, and then formed an independent adjusting company. Finally he was employed as an adjuster and claims office manager for Nation-Wide Insurance Company. He lived and worked in the Williamsport-Lycoming County area for 20 years before retiring at York.



Lewis Bell Buckingham b Oct 19-1915 m Dec 26-1941

Naomi E Pentz b Feb 20-1917

A. Lewis Bell Buckingham b Feb 23-1943; educated in the Jersey Shore (PA) public schools. Graduated from Pennsylvania State University and earned his Master's in Library Science at the University of Hawaii. Presently living in Philadelphia and self-employed in the Real Estate business.

B. Jeffrey Westwood Buckingham b Dec 28-1946; educated in the Jersey Shore (PA) public schools. Graduated from Pennsylvania State University, with Varsity letters in track. Served in Navy Intelligence and was in Vietnam for over two years. Obtained a Master's in English at Temple University. At present, he is an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

C. Jacqueline Lee Buckingham b May 3-1953; educated in the Jersey Shore (PA) public schools. Graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Presently living in Delmont PA, doing free lance art work. See below.

D. Josephine Ann Buckingham b May 3-1953; educated in the Jersey Shore (PA) public schools. Graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Teaching elementary grades in Youngwood PA. She married Robert E Banfill May 28-1977. He is employed by the Y M C A in Greensburg PA. They live at R D 2, Greensburg.

Jacqueline married Thomas Over Feb 4-1976. Tom is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is employed by Caterpillar Company at Monroeville PA.

#### Bell men

George - George - George

Raymond - Edward - Adam

Robert - Gary

Francis | Richard - Richard

Terry - Shawn

John - Martin

James - James

Vincent - Scott

Clarence

#### Living descendants of Thompson George Bell

Grandchildren = 3

Gtgdchildren = 21 (born 1905-31)

Gtgtgdchildren = 58 (b 1931-62)

Gtgtgtgdchildren = 39 (b 1954--)

Gtgtgtgtgdchildren = 1 (b 1977)



## 4. GRUBER H. BELL

Gruber was born in the Stone House, Vira in 1853. Named for Jacob Gruber, he added the H. to his name. He said, jokingly, it stood for "Huckleberry". Genial by nature, he taught school and farmed at Vira after attending Kishacoquillas Seminary. In 1893 he moved to Lewistown, where he dealt in real estate, livestock and farm implements. He was best known as an auctioneer, serving in this capacity for 25 years.

He was a member of the state legislature in 1898 and 1899. In 1909 he was elected to a 4-year term as Associate Judge, helping to make Mifflin County "dry" by refusing to issue liquor licenses. He held various county and municipal offices. Active in business and the Methodist Church, he helped many young men. He was a leader in the church at Lewistown, teaching a men's class for many years. He was a kind and indulgent husband and father and a friend to all.

At his death he was living at 67 Logan St. In 1878 he married Nettie Shadle of Kishacoquillas Valley. Aunt Nettie survived him by ten years. Gracious and kind in her quiet way, she gave a warm welcome with true hospitality to those who came to her house.

Gruber H. Bell b Mar 9-1853 d Jan 24-1924 m Mar 21-1878 Annetta Jane Shadde b Sep 16-1855 d Jun 27-1934

a. John Foster Bell b Feb 23-1879 d Jun 4-1914

b. Harvey Thompson Bell b Jun 18-1884 d Jun 18-1890

c. Mary Barr Bell b Apr 15-1890 d Sep 27-1936 m Sep 8-1909 Frederick William Stannert b Jul 7-1881 d Apr 2-1939

Mary was born at Vira. She moved to Lewistown at the age of 3. She was a talented musician. At her death she was organist and minister of music at the First Methodist Church of Lewistown. For years she played songs of love and faith at church and private recitals. Their son, William Bell Stannert, married Virginia Steele, and lives now at 580 Front St., Northumberland PA. William and Virginia have two sons, Michael Stephen and William Steele.



## 5. PRISCILLA MARY BELL HIMES

Cilla was born in 1854 at the Stone House near Vira. In 1875 she married George Sylvester Himes. He was a merchant at 124 Freedom Ave., Burnham PA for 41 years. Cilla died in 1915 at a hospital in Binghamton NY, where she had gone for treatment.

She was all that loveliness can imply, always on the alert to help others. Young ministers sought her encouragement and counsel. She did everything she was asked to do in the Master's name and for His sake. An able musician and speaker, she was always active in the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. She was loved by the boys and girls of the community.

George Himes was born in Lewistown in 1853. In 1920 he married Cilla's sister, Laura. He died in 1938. He will be remembered for the bag of candy he always handed out to his grand-nephews and -nieces.

Priscilla Mary Bell b Oct 5-1854 d Nov 20-1915 m Feb 9-1875 George Sylvester Himes b Aug 15-1853 d Apr 18-1938 - no children

## 6. JANE ANN BELL BEASHOR

Jen or Jennie was born in the Stone House in 1856. In 1881 she married Dorie Beashor. They never had a real permanent home. Aunt Jen had a room while Uncle Dorie explored various business enterprises. For many years she lived in the Scranton-Wilkes Barre area. The last few years of her life she lived with her sister, Laura, at Burnham. She died in 1943 six years after her husband.

She always said she liked to hear a boy whistle. She was a cheerful person; it was fun to be with her. She never complained about her circumstances, meager though they were.

Jane Ann Bell b Aug 28-1856 d Apr 10-1943 m Feb 22-1881 Theodore Martin Beashor b Jul 26-1858 d Feb 1-1937 - no children



## 7. SARAH MATILDA BELL BERKHEIMER

Tillie or Matilda was born in 1858 in the Stone House. She lived at home until 1903 when she married the Rev. John E. Berkheimer, a retired minister of the Free Methodist Church. They lived at Pleasantville PA until his death in 1914. John served in the 49th Regiment of the Pa Volunteer Infantry. He was a prisoner Aug 1-1863 to Nov 24-1864, spending 9 months in Andersonville prison.

Aunt Matilda returned to Lewistown and lived on Logan St. until her death in 1933. She was a wonderful, kind person.

Sarah Matilda Bell b Aug 6-1858 d Apr 2-1933 m Jun 18-1903 John Edward Berkheimer b Jun 18-1842 d Jul 10-1914

a. Carl Edwin Bell b Jul 11-1884 d Feb 9-1923 m Apr 18-1912 Martha Cross

Wilcox. Carl was born at Vira. From his youth he was associated with his uncle, George Bell, in the wholesale produce business. He managed the store at Pittston about 10 years, until his sudden death in 1923. He was active in the Methodist Church and in business circles.

## Other Bell Histories

1887	Thompson G Bell	Sketch of My Life
1912	Laura Bell Himes	Biographical Sketches of Our Parents and Other Ancestors
1924	Raymond M Bell	A Record of the Descendants of George Bell
1929		Founders of the Bell Family
1941		The Bell Family of Mifflin County
1966		The Descendants of John Henderson Bell
1978		William Bell of Paxton and His Descendants

## U M Central Pennsylvania Conference

Minister	Active	Yrs Died	Widow	Yrs	Both	Yrs
J Foster Bell	1869-1878	9 1878	1878-1933	55	1869-1933	64
J Ellis Bell	1878-1921	43 1932	----	--	1878-1932	54
John T Bell	1900-1921	21 1922	1922-1932	10	1900-1932	32
Frank T Bell	1902-1924	22 1924	1924-1974	50	1902-1974	72



## 8. GEORGE THOMPSON BELL

George was born in the White House at Vira in 1860. He attended Dickinson Seminary. He was in business in Pittsburgh and Johnstown before going to Wilkes-Barre in 1887. He often wondered what would have happened to him, his family and business, if he had stayed in Johnstown. Two years after he left came the Great Flood.

He ran a prosperous business at Wilkes-Barre. He was a wholesale produce distributor and commission merchant for many years. He was active in the First Methodist Church as trustee, class leader and Sunday School teacher. He possessed many splendid traits of character, which won the admiration of a host of friends.

In 1887 he married Marge Byers in Johnstown. Aunt Marge was always such a gracious hostess. If she was not home, the key at 113 North Franklin Street was easy to find and we made ourselves "at home".

George and Marge enjoyed a trip to the Mediterranean. A prize picture was Marge riding a camel. George liked to tell of walking on a street in London, when King George and Queen Mary drove by in a carriage. George tipped his hat and the king returned the courtesy. His family, his church and his business were his life. He helped many people live better lives. George Thompson Bell b Jul 2-1860 d May 3-1930 m Apr 26-1887

Margaret Ann Byers b Jan 24-1862 d Oct 10-1940

- a. Fearon Byers Bell b Mar 20-1888, see below
- b. Gertrude Himes Bell b Aug 23-1890, see below
- c. Vincent Gruber Bell b Oct 4-1892, see below
- d. Harvey Hahn Bell b Dec 14-1894 d Dec 18-1896
- e. George Thompson Bell b Jul 4-1899, see below

### a. Fearon Byers Bell

Fearon was born in 1888. In 1918 he married Louise Sickler. Fearon was active successfully in business until his illness and death. His dynamic and wonderful disposition and personality was the greatest and will live on in the hearts of his family forever. Louise was active in the D A R and other organizations. With her active, brilliant mind, she managed the family's coal business, until it was sold. She gave her loving self to her friends and family until her death.

Who can forget Fearon as master of ceremonies at reunions and the story of the musical program where the announcer read out "Refrain from Spitting"? Fearon was active in the Wilkes-Barre produce store.



Fearon Byers Bell b Mar 20-1888 d Mar 12-1946 m Mar 9-1918

Dora Louise Sickler b Dec 18-1889 d Apr 19-1971

i. James Adams Bell b Jan 25-1919, see below

ii. Marion Louise Bell b Nov 17-1920, see below

iii. Janet Byers Bell b Nov 4-1923, see below

i. James Adams Bell

James was born in Wilkes-Barre in 1919. In 1950 he married Ann Antrim of Scranton. James writes: "We have lived at Mountaintop since our marriage. I was graduated from Meyers High School, Wilkes-Barre 1936; Wyoming Seminary, Kingston 1937 and attended Lafayette College 1937-39. For the past 23 years I have been a Sales Representative for Blue Cross - Blue Shield of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Our family are members of First United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre. I have been a member of the Administrative Board since 1943. I am also a member of the Board of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society; of the Board of the Glen Summit Company; of the Board and Treasurer of American Society of Metals. I have been President of the Glen Summit Chapel for the past 28 years. I am a member of the Board, Hazleton Kiwanis Club. I am also an active member of Keystone Consistory, a part of the stage crew for 33 years."

James Adams Bell b Jan 25-1919 m Mar 25-1950

Ann Frances Antrim

A. James Adams Bell Jr b Dec 15-1951. A graduate of Syracuse University with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture. He spent 4 years in London, England, two at the Architectural Association of Architects. He returned to the States on 3 different 50-foot sailing ships. He is very interested in Art, and in designing Geometric toys.

B. Ann Antrim Bell (Abbie) b Sep 3-1954. She is quite an equestrian. Loves to ski, play tennis. Plays the guitar and in her spare time has a job at R C A in Mountaintop.

ii. Marion Bell McDaniel

Marion was born in 1920. She married Larry McDaniel in 1950. He died in 1973. She lives at Ridgewood NJ and is quite proud of her three sons.

A. Lawrence Ward McDaniel Jr b Aug 24-1951. Graduate of Washington and Lee University 1973.

B. J Edmonds McDaniel b Apr 26-1953. Graduate (magna cum laude) of Dartmouth University 1975. One year Edinburgh. U of So Ala, M D expected 1979.

C. Richard Bell McDaniel b Feb 12-1956. W & L 1978. Teaching in Virginia.



### iii. Janet Bell Hughes

Janet was born in 1923. She married Richard Hughes in 1957. Janet wrote from the Queen Elizabeth II: "Dick and I are enroute to Paris to visit our daughter, Janet. We will travel on the continent for 3 weeks. Dick is an active lawyer and Vice President of the Miners Savings Bank of Pittston. He is also active in the A Y A of Yale University. I am busy keeping the homefront and doing volunteer work. We are going back to the War Memorial at Bastogne, where Dick served as a paratrooper during World War II. We have seen this before; it is very impressive." Janet and Dick live at Mountaintop PA.

Janet Byers Bell b Nov 4-1923 m May 27-1957 Richard Morris Hughes II  
A. Janet Louise Hughes b Apr 14-1958. She is currently spending Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France, studying at the Sorbonne and the Political Science Institute in Paris.

B. Richard Morris Hughes III. He is now in his senior year at Wyoming Seminary, preparing for college.

### b. Gertrude Bell Williams

Gertrude was born in 1890. In 1917 she married Howard Lucas Williams, son of David S and Elizabeth Williams of Wilkes-Barre. This was a typical war-time wedding as Howard was on a short leave from Fort Gordon, Alabama, where he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 109th Infantry, 28th (Pa) Division. They lived in Alabama until the end of the war.

They settled in Scranton PA where Howard managed the Scranton branch of the George T Bell Company, a wholesale produce distributor and commissioned merchant. When the Scranton branch was closed, Howard became a securities salesman for Cassatt and Company and worked under Gertrude's cousin, Jess Bell, of Philadelphia. Their first and only home in Scranton was at 617 Quincy Avenue. Gertrude was kept busy raising her children, but found time to be very active in both Elm Park Methodist Church and the Century Club - a woman's club that helped the unfortunate.

Gertrude Himes Bell b Aug 23-1890 d Jan 31-1966 m Sep 12-1917

Howard Lucas Williams b Aug 8-1889 d Feb 2-1952

i. Howard Lucas Williams Jr b Dec 5-1921, see below

ii. Margaret (Margie) Bell Williams b Apr 4-1924 d Mar 13-1972, see below



i. Howard Lucas Williams Jr

Howard was born in 1921. In high school he was active in football. In 1939 he entered Lafayette College, which his father and three uncles had attended. Education was interrupted in the last year, when Howard was inducted into the U S Infantry during World War II. He saw combat action in Italy during his 38 months overseas. He was commissioned an officer in combat. He returned to civilian life in 1946 and finished his studies and was awarded a degree by Lafayette.

Howard's first job was with his father, who was a partner in Williams Brothers, a wholesale grocery distributor in northeastern Pennsylvania. He served in many capacities in this firm until his father's death in 1952. In 1953 he joined the sales organization of Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Corporation. He was with them until March 1970. One of Howard's assignments with Chevrolet was in Washington DC. During this time he met Charlotte Tucker, who was executive assistant to Major General Emmett O'Donnell Jr, U S Air Force.

Howard and Charlotte were married in 1960 at the Naval Base in Norfolk, Virginia. Howard was transferred to Philadelphia and they established their home in the Chestnut Hill area. In 1970 Howard started his own Chevrolet agency in Quakertown PA, forty miles north of Philadelphia. Charlotte joined in the management. In May 1977 the Chevrolet dealership was sold, but the family remains in Quakertown.

Charlotte after leaving the auto business put her previous experience in personnel to work in the Counselling and Executive Search Field. As a partner in Career Services of Jenkintown, she has a favorable relationship with the major companies in the area. Howard is presently sales manager of a large Buick agency in Philadelphia.

Howard Lucas Williams Jr b Dec 5-1921 m Feb 20-1960 Charlotte Tucker  
A. Howard Lucas Williams (Howie) III born Feb 14-1961. He is a good student with emphasis on baseball. He has earned his letter in high school each year.

B. Mary Elizabeth Williams (Cee-Cee) b May 18-1962. She is a super student in high school with an eager eye toward drama. She has attended dance and thesbian classes and earned an "Oscar" at the Bucks County Drama Festival in 1978. Watch out Broadway!



ii. Margaret (Margie) Williams Condron

Margie was born in 1924 and died in 1972. She married Joseph Condron in 1950. Education: Scranton Central High School, 1941; Hood College, 1941-42; Katherine Gibbs School, New York, 1942-43. Job: Executive Secretary, Murray Corporation, Scranton PA, 1943-51. Church: Elm Park Methodist. Memberships: Junior League of Scranton, recording secretary; Junior Century Club. Residence in Scranton: 617 Quincy Ave, 916 Willow St, 1212 Woodlawn St, 1701 Wyoming Ave. Hobbies: Bridge, knitting, reading, children.

Joseph Condron was born in Wilkes-Barre 1922 - parents, Philip W Condron and Margaret T Hogan. Education: B S Business Administration, 1944, Holy Cross College; Northwestern University, 1944; University of Scranton, 1957. Jobs: Swift and Company, 1946-47, Bakery sales; Condron Construction Company, 1947-58, Estimator; Breig Brothers Builders, Estimator and Corporate Officer; Pennsylvania State University, Worthington Scranton Campus, 1969, 1972, Instructor. Church: St. Ignatius, Kingston. Memberships: Century Club of Scranton; Reserve Officers Association; Navy League; Holy Cross College Alumni Club; Retarded Citizens Association. Military Service: Lieutenant Commander U S N R (Ret) 1942-69; World War II, Central Pacific, Battles, Iwo Jima and Okinawa; Post World War II Naval Reserve Program, Reserve Division Commander. Travel: Canada, Mexico, Hawaii, Philippine Islands, Central Pacific, Caribbean, Spain, Canary Islands. Hobbies: Reading, golf, bridge. Married 1975 Betsy Bell Parkhurst. Residence: Kingston PA. See page 49. Margaret Bell Williams b Apr 4-1924 d Mar 13-1972 m Jun 10-1950

Joseph Charles Condron b Apr 20-1922 m2 Jun 28-1975 Betsy Bell Parkhurst

A. David Charles Condron b Apr 1-1951, see below

B. Carol Ann Condron b Nov 23-1952, see below

C. Deborah A Condron b Nov 1-1954, see below

D. Mark Joseph Condron b Jun 10-1957. Student, Drexel University.

Hobbies: Golf, tennis, reading.

E. James Andrew Condron b Jan 19-1960. Enrolled, White Haven (PA) School.

Hobby: Music,

A. David Charles Condron

David was born in 1951. B S in Accounting, Mount Saint Mary's College, 1973. Senior Accountant, Stegman Associates, Baltimore MD. C P A 1975. Hobbies: Skiing, sailing own boat. Lives at Columbia MD.



### B. Carol Condron Keisling

Carol was born in 1952. She married Delbert Keisling in 1976. They live at Clarks Summit PA. Delbert was born in 1952.

Carol: Education: 1970-72, West Chester State College; 1972-74, B S in Special Education, Marywood College, Scranton (cum laude); 1978, M S in Special Education, Marywood. Job: Special Education Teacher, 1974-present. Church: Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit; Memberships: Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens; also National Association; Junior League of Scranton (A J L A). Writings: Master's thesis, "The Effects of a Specific Preceptual Motor Training Program on Body Awareness in Trainable Mentally Retarded Children". Travel: Mexico, Virgin Islands. Hobbies: Reading, crocheting, fishing.

Delbert: Education: 1971-72, Weidner College, Chester; 1972-75, B S in Marketing, Wilkes College. Job: Sales Executive, Scranton Plastic Laminating Company. Church: Faith Community Church, Glenburn. Memberships: Country Club of Scranton; Chamber of Commerce, Scranton; YMCA. Travel: Extensively on business, Virgin Islands. Hobbies: Golf, hunting, fishing, racketball, running. Parents: Delbert and Evelyn Keisling.

Carol Ann Condron b Nov 23-1952 m Jul 31-1976

Delbert Paul Keisling b Oct 11-1952

### C. Deborah Condron Hoffman

Deborah was born in 1954. She married H John Hoffman in 1977. John was born in Norwich CT in 1954. They live at East Hampton CT.

Deborah: Education: 1976, B S in Accounting, Holy Cross College (cum laude); M B A in progress, University of Connecticut. Job: Bank Auditor, Connecticut Bank and Trust Company, Hartford CT. Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, 1976. Church: St Patrick's, East Hampton CT. Travel: Spain, Bermuda. Hobbies: Cooking, reading.

John: Education: 1976, A B in Religious Studies, Holy Cross College. Job: Religion teacher, St Bernards High School, Colchester CT. Parents: Harold John Hoffman and Rita La Rochelle. Church: St Patrick's. Hobbies: Running, reading, music.

Deborah A Condron b Nov 1-1954 m Jul 16-1977

H John Hoffman b Apr 18-1954



c. Vincent Gruber Bell

Vincent was born in 1892. In 1925 he married Marguerite Spielberger. They lived in Kingston PA. Vincent was associated with his father in the wholesale produce business. Marguerite died in 1947. In 1951 Vincent married Helen Mooney. They were living in Philadelphia, when Vincent died in 1966. Helen lives in Willow Grove PA.

Vincent lived in East Orange NJ for a time. He was a friendly person, thoughtful of others.

Vincent Gruber Bell b Oct 4-1892 d Jul 6-1966 m1 Feb 24-1925 Marguerite Spielberger b Nov 2-1900 d Jun 16-1947, m2 Aug 4-1951 Helen Elizabeth (Mooney)  
i. Vincent Gruber Bell Jr b Nov 30-1952, see below

i. Vincent Gruber Bell Jr

Vincent was born in 1952. He married Elaine Votaw. They live at Radnor PA. Vincent is a graduate of Lehigh University, Elaine of Skidmore College. Vincent is President of Safeguard Industries, King of Prussia PA. Elaine specializes in interior decorating.

A. Scott Votaw Bell b Mar 27-1955, see below

B. Marguerite (Meg) Votaw Bell b May 1-1957. Attending Art Center College of Design, Pasadena CA.

C. Amelia (Amy) Bell b May 2-1960. Attending Villanova University.

A. Scott Votaw Bell b Mar 27-1955 m Ruth Prokopowich. They live at College, Alaska. Scott is attending the University of Alaska.

I. Koren Rose Bell b Jul 27-1977 (the day after Betsy Condon and Barbara Miduri became grandmothers)

e. George Thompson Bell

George was born in 1899. He married Sara Wolfe in 1925. Sara was born in 1904. They live at Wilkes-Barre PA.

George is Chairman of the Board and a founder of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, December 1-1938. Previous Position: Partner, George T Bell Company, wholesale merchants. Education: Lafayette College and University of Pennsylvania. Affiliations: Phi Gamma Delta, Westmoreland Club. Military Service: U S Army, World War I.

Memberships and Offices (Former): President, Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley; President, Council of Social Agencies of Wyoming



Valley; President, Wyoming Valley Community Chest; Chairman, Wyoming Valley Community Chest Campaign and Member of the Board of Governors; First President, Wyoming Valley Endorsement Board; District Chairman of all Pennsylvania Blue Cross plans; Vice Chairman, National Blue Cross Commission; District Governor, National Blue Cross Association; Member, Board of Governors, National Blue Cross Association; Trustee, American Hospital Association; Chairman, Carpenter Memorial Concerts; Chairman, Music Committee, First United Methodist Church; President, Westmoreland Club; Member, Governor's Hospital Study Commission; Campaign Chairman and Member of the Advisory Board, Pennsylvania State University (W-B Center); Member, Board of Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund; Group Chairman, Central Allocations Committee, Wyoming Valley United Fund; A founder and President, Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Health Consultant to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Health Consultant to the Blue Cross Plan of Puerto Rico; Chairman, Committee to develop the Health Service Agency.

Memberships and Offices (Present): Trustee and Chairman of Executive Committee, Nesbitt Memorial Hospital; Member Emeritus, Board of Directors, United Penn Bank; President, Board of Trustees, First United Methodist Church; Member, Administrative Board, First United Methodist Church; Member, Board of Directors, Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania; One of the organizers and member of the Board, Health Care Management Corporation; Member, Executive Committee, Northeast Regional Medical Program; Member, Delaware Valley Regional Medical Program; Consultant, Federated Health Insurance Association, Ltd, Jamaica; Lifetime Member, Hospital Association of Pennsylvania.

George's hobbies are sports, music and travel. He was recently honored at the 40th anniversary of Blue Cross dinner dance and was presented with a magnificent clock, which will run forever on atmosphere alone.

Sara's parents were Samuel Melville Wolfe (M D) and Bessie Jean Straw. She attended Wyoming Seminary, graduated from Baldwin School, and attended Barnard College.

Past Volunteer Positions: President, Junior League of Wilkes-Barre; Vice President, Y W C A; Vice Chairman, Volunteer Office of Wilkes-Barre; Chairman, Women's Division, Community Chest of Wyoming Valley; Director, Region III, National Association Junior Leagues of America; Executive Committee, Junior Leagues of America; President, League of Women Voters of Luzerne County; Vice President, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania;



Vice President, Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania; Chairman, Roll Call for Children, Northeastern Pennsylvania; Executive Committee, Community Services Study Commission, Luzerne County; also Chairman, Group Work Division for above; Chairman, Family and Children's Division; Pennsylvania Citizen's Association; Legislative Consultant to Commission on Social Relations, Wyoming Valley Council of Churches; First Chairman, Welfare Advisory Committee to Luzerne County Commissioners; First Chairman, Red Carpet Committee, Chamber of Commerce.

Past Board Member: Pennsylvania Mental Health; Pennsylvania Plan for Election of Judges; Woman's Medical Hospital of Pennsylvania; Luzerne County Defense Council; Wyoming Valley Endorsement Board; Municipal Merger Committee, Advisory Committee to W A A C; Chamber of Commerce.

Past Positions: Chairman, Region VI, Pennsylvania Citizen's Council; Chairman, State and Local Welfare Committee, Luzerne County; Delegate to First Conference on Human Services; Vice Chairman, Welfare Planning Council, Wyoming Valley; Co-Chairman, Annual Carpenter Memorial Concert; Committee for Constitutional Revision; Trustee, Baldwin School.

Present: Past President, Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania; Executive Committee of the Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Awards: 1958 Pennsylvania Citizens' Award for Outstanding Service

In acknowledgment of her contribution for many years to the health and welfare of the people of Pennsylvania. Her leadership and dedication as a volunteer and layman to the cause of citizen participation in the affairs of government. The substantial influence she has exercised on the development of public and voluntary services for children and youth in Pennsylvania.

1960 Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania Award

Her extraordinary talents of leadership have furthered the cause of informal citizen participation in the affairs of state government. She has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of health and welfare services for the residents of her own community, as well as the people of her Commonwealth. For over 20 years she has searched out the Commonwealth's needs in its care for dependent children. She has toured the Commonwealth and then reported her findings to our legislative bodies. Finally, at long last, many of her suggestions are becoming laws with adequate budgeting.

1971 Delegate-at-large, White House Conference on Aging

1972 Alumnae Association Award, Baldwin School

Sara writes: "My hobbies are gardening and travel. My main interest has always been in the social welfare field, especially as it affects family and children. This led into the field of legislation, where I



spent many years lobbying in one form or another for better adoption laws, protective laws for neglected and dependent children. I belong to the First United Methodist Church of Wilkes-Barre."

Travels: In describing the travels of George and Sara, it would be easier to list where they have not been, e.g. the South Pole and Moon. They made official visits for Blue Cross to Jordan, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. In the Tokyo airport they met by chance cousins, Margaret Lloyd and Anne Sloan. Again by accident they met John and June Bell in a Johannesburg hotel. At last count Sara was aiming toward a 40th Atlantic crossing. Other trips have included the Colombian jungle, Iran, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok - Turkey, Ireland, Britain, Switzerland, and so on. The most interesting account for the Bells is this one - a trip in Scotland. This is Sara's description:

"Middlebie?" everyone said. "Middlebie?" and shook their heads. Then we asked drivers of tour buses and the third one said, "Middlebie? Yes, that's Bell country." Can you imagine our emotion? This driver got out a detailed map, which showed Middlebie, and he outlined a route that would take us there from Edinburgh and another one that would bring us back - about 180 miles.

The next day, with George at the wheel of a rented car, which he had to drive on the "wrong" side of the road, we set out. The sunken roads between the hedgerows wound and curved amid tiny villages and fields where sheep grazed.

We had with us General John Howard Bell's photograph of Middlebie Kirk taken from a plane at an altitude of 800 feet at 500 miles per hour. We were taking it to the Rector. In the meantime, we knew what to look for and, suddenly, there it was. So plainly unmistakable! And so beautiful.

The "village" consists of a row of small houses facing the Kirk and off to its right a group of perhaps a dozen more. We drove to a vantage point for photographs and George stopped a passing motorist to ask where the Rector lived. The motorist, friendly and helpful, as we found everyone, said that he was going that way and if we would follow him, he would take us to the door. And soon we were ringing the bell at a rectory beside another Kirk. (This dedicated man serves four.) Though totally unexpected, we were greeted with great warmth and hospitality. General Bell's picture, framed for hanging, was received with enthusiasm, as was Raymond Bell's history of our family in the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent had a pressing engagement and, while insisting that we return to the church, could not accompany us. So, we took pictures of them and found our way back. Mr. Vincent had said, "Ah, but you must return. It's such a bonnie Kirk. There's a deep glen at the back with a burn running through it." And he gave us directions to an officer's home, where we could pick up the key. We then proceeded to the church. It is set in well-cared-for grounds, magnificently abloom with the most enormous rhododendrons I have ever seen - golden chain trees - and other flowers I could not identify. All of this is enclosed by trim hedges. At the back was the glen filled with enormous ancient trees - the chestnuts and white hawthorns setting



off the oaks.

We went inside the church by way of the vestry, where General Bell's photo is to be hung. And there on the wall we read the names of its pastors from 1615. The first three were named "Bell" - Thomas, Thomas, John. Records show that a church has been there since 1518, but nothing much is known of the earlier years.

Then we went inside the "Bonnie Kirk" and fell silent. "Bonnie" it is, indeed! I cannot begin to describe the beauty of this holy place; in the form of a cross of native stone inside as well as out, with shining brass and very plain wooden benches. There were memorials to the dead of both World Wars. Boys named "Bell" are listed. Later, we wandered through the cemetery. There has been no room for years. Another cemetery is used today. Of the 80 stones, half are Bells: George, Robert, William, Thomas, John, and so on.

The ancient stones, five feet or more tall, all faced in one direction. On the backs of the stones were the carved symbols of the Bell coat-of-arms - the fleur-de-lis and the three bells. It was one of THE days in our lives. (June 11-1977)

Middlebie was visited by Raymond on August 8-1938. In 1978 James and Nancy Buckingham made a pilgrimage there.

George Thompson Bell b Jul 4-1899 m Jan 10-1925

Sara Leach Wolfe b May 28-1904

i. Betsy Jane Straw Bell b Mar 15-1928, see below

ii. George Thompson Bell b Jun 27-1931, see below

#### i. Betsy Bell Condron

Betsy was born in Wilkes-Barre in 1928. She graduated from Skidmore College in 1949 with a Bachelor's Degree in Art and Art History. After teaching school in Northampton MA she married John Johnson Parkhurst Sep 9-1950. They had two daughters, Sara and Betsy.

Betsy has held a variety of volunteer leadership positions, which culminated in her 1975 election to the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania (following in her mother's footsteps). Part of the citation reads:

Among honors affirming her high quality service to community, state and nation are: the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Benjamin Rush Award for outstanding health leadership; the Pennsylvania Health Department's Outstanding Volunteer Award; the Homemaker Service Merit Award. She has held responsible national positions in the Junior Leagues, Skidmore College, the Y W C A's and professional groups. Included in her state Chairmanship posts are Home Health Services, Constitutional Revision, Health Task Force, Governor Scranton's Commission on Women, Active in the United Way Cabinet, the County Home, League of Women Voters and a founder of Luzerne County's Homemaker Service, she has also been involved in the Economic Development Council's Flood Recovery Task Force since 1972. (Betsy's own home was flooded.)



Betsy enjoys travelling. She has been to Europe eight times. On June 28-1975 she married Joseph Condron, See page 42. They live in Kingston PA. Betsy is Director of College Placement at Wyoming Seminary and is about to complete her Master's Degree in Education. She continues volunteer work, primarily on the Medical College of Pennsylvania Commonwealth Board and as the community representative for the Wilkes - Hahnemann Medical College Selection Committee.

Betsy Jane Straw Bell b Mar 15-1928 m Jun 28-1975

Joseph Charles Condron b Apr 20-1922

A. Sara (Sally) Bell Parkhurst b Sep 19-1951, see below

B. Betsy (Binky) Bell Parkhurst b Mar 15-1955. She graduated from Wyoming Seminary in 1973 and Lycoming College in 1977 with a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies. She has travelled to Europe on a Study Tour with her mother. She spent six weeks in Belgium. She currently lives and works in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

A. Sara Van Why

Sara was born in 1951. She graduated from Wyoming Seminary in 1969. The playschool she ran in her house in Kingston during her high school years assured Sally's love for teaching little children. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Hood College in 1973 and then taught school in New Jersey, Stroudsburg and Bedford. She married Norman Van Why in 1973. They lived in Bushkill Falls for 4 years, where Sally earned her Master's Degree in Education from East Stroudsburg College. They now live in Bedford. Sally is active in the Girl Scouts, Presbyterian Church and other community service groups.

Norman was born in Stroudsburg in 1950. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University. He was a surveyor for Hess Associates in Stroudsburg and now runs his own surveying business in Bedford.

Sara Bell Parkhurst b Sep 19-1951 m Jul 8-1973

Norman S Van Why b Aug 12-1950

I. Beth Ingrid Van Why b Jul 26-1977



ii. George Thompson Bell

George was born in 1931. He married Ruth Hughes in 1953. Ruth was born three days before George. She is the daughter of Ralph E and Ruth Harris Hughes. George and Ruth graduated from Wyoming Seminary in 1949. Then George graduated from Avon Old Farms and received his B S degree from Babson College. Ruth is a graduate of Wilson College and took post-graduate courses in education and social work. She is a former elementary school teacher and now Realtor associate.

George is a Real Estate Broker. He has been an instructor for Pennsylvania State University. He is Chairman of the Administrative Board, First United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre; Member, Board of Methodist Church Home for Aging; Member, Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Industrial Visitation Committee; Member, Pennsylvania State Real Estate Education Committee; Member, United Way Speakers' Bureau.

George and Ruth now live in Kingston. They are building a house at Oldfield Road, Shavertown PA, which they hope to occupy in June 1979.

George Thompson Bell b Jun 27-1931 m Jul 25-1953

Ruth Harris Hughes b Jun 24-1931

A. George Thompson Bell b Jan 6-1956. Graduated Colgate University 1977. Attending Dickinson School of Law, class of 1980.

B. Susan Harris Bell b Jul 1-1958. Attending Susquehanna University, class of 1980, majoring in communications.

C. Christine Ruth Bell b Feb 3-1961. Attending Valley West High School, class of 1979.



## 9..LAURA HOUCK BELL HIMES

Laura was born in the White House in 1866. Her 94 years were spent within a couple of miles of Vira, except for some months in California about 1900. She died on her birthday, the last of her family. She lived at home until her mother's death in 1907. Then she moved to Burnham and lived with her sister, Cilla.

In 1912 she and her nephew, Frank Bell, wrote and published a Bell history, "Biographical Sketches of our Parents and Other Ancestors", based on a sketch by Thompson G. Bell in 1887. After the death of Cilla in 1915 Laura continued to keep house for George Himes. They were married in 1920; George died in 1938; Laura in 1960.

She was organist at the Vira Methodist Church for many years. A great letter writer she helped to keep the clan together. Kind and loving she was greatly respected in the community and in her church. She lived an active life, living to see great-great-greatnephews.

Laura Houck Bell b Jan 16-1866 d Jan 16-1960 m Nov 25-1920 George Sylvester Himes (see above) - no children

## 10. WILLIAM HAHN BELL

Will was born in the White House near Vira in 1868. In 1891 he married Margaret Dippery. Will suffered from poor health. He died at Wilkes Barre in 1918; Margaret survived him for 40 years. She was always good company. Will was engaged in business enterprises at Erie, Berwick and Wilkes Barre. He was popular and an enjoyable man to be with. He liked people, especially children.

William Hahn Bell b Jul 23-1868 d Apr 10-1918 m Mar 18-1891 Margaret Ann Dippery b Sep 19-1870 d Nov 22-1958

a. Thompson Henry Bell b Mar 9-1892 d Jun 24-1924. He was born at Reedsville PA. He died at Wilkes Barre. He was never married. He possessed rare musical ability.



Ancestry  
of

<p>THOMPSON GEORGE BELL 1817-1889</p>	<p>John Henderson Bell 1791-1838 Mifflin Co</p>	<p>William Bell d 1827 Mifflin Co</p>	<p>George Bell d 1816 Mary Bell Mifflin Co</p>	<p>William Bell d 1783 Dauphin Co</p>
<p>PRISCILLA MARTIN 1817-1851</p>	<p>Mary Sigler 1792-1857</p>	<p>Margaret McCartney d 1843</p>	<p>John McCartney d 1787 Sibella --- Juniata Co</p>	
	<p>Samuel Martin 1775-1842 Mifflin Co</p>	<p>George Sigler 1762-1821 Indian captive Mifflin Co</p>	<p>George Sigler d 1790 Elizabeth Terrault Mifflin Co</p>	<p>Jacob Bunn 1736-1808 Hunterdon Co NJ Mary Elizabeth --- 1744-1817</p>
	<p>Nancy Stark 1779-1859</p>	<p>Joseph Martin d 1777 in Rev Perry Co</p>	<p>Samuel Martin d 1770 Elizabeth --- d 1772 Dauphin Co</p>	<p>Joseph Martin Dauphin Co</p>
<p>MARY ELIZABETH ANDERSON 1829-1907</p>	<p>Jane McCord 1797-1868</p>	<p>Ann Baskins d 1795</p>	<p>William Baskins 1756 killed by Indians Mary --- Perry Co</p>	
		<p>Zephaniah Stark d 1792 Lewistown</p>		
	<p>Joseph Anderson d 1828 Mifflin Co</p>	<p>Agnes --- 1745-1810</p>		
		<p>Arthur Anderson d 1828 Co. Fermanagh, Ireland buried Lowtherstown</p>		
		<p>Thomas McCord d 1821 Mifflin Co</p>	<p>Thomas McCord 1772 Donegal, Ireland to Pa</p>	
		<p>Rachel 1767-1843</p>		



## BELL REUNIONS

The first reunion was held in 1929 at the Methodist Training Camp, Newton Hamilton PA. This was the meeting place until 1964. Who can forget the "comforts" of the Oak Grove Hotel? We were all one big family. The Bells had been going to Newton Hamilton for over 50 years to campmeeting. It brought back many memories.

In 1967 the reunion was moved to the Holiday Inn, Burnham PA. It was quite a contrast to the Oak Grove Hotel.

Here is the statistical record: \* President in this branch

Date	Martin	+ Ellis	+ George	+ Others	= T G	+ J M	+ W S	+ Others	= Total
1929	8	17*	12	9	46	28	1	25	100
1930	8	11	10	4	33	29*	5	23	90
1932	9*	4	12	6	31	8	14	24	77
1934	7	5*	9	5	26	6	4	16	52
1937	10	12	8	8	38	29*	11	24	102
1940	8	8	2	7	25	24*	15	8	76
1946	11*	23	8	2	44	22	2	9	80
1949	11	23	11	2	47	20*	3	26	96
1952	13	25	11*	0	49	17	4	8	77
1955	14*	33	18	0	65	12	0	2	78
1958	19	21*	21	1	62	9	0	4	75
1961	20	23	30*	0	73	5	7	4	89
1964	21*	21	21	2	65	15	0	4	91
1967	17	13	21	0	51	33*	4	4	92
1970	12	12	28*	2	54	30	22	4	110
1973	10	24*	17	0	51	18	3	5	79
1976	28	16	23	0	67	37*	6	1	111

## Presidents

1929 J Ellis Bell

1930 Harry A Bell

1932 Ralph C Bell

1934 Fearon B Bell

1937 Robert K Bell

1940 Edward L Bell

1946 Raymond M Bell

1949 John P Bell

1952 George T Bell Sr

1955 Clarence A Bell

1958 Lewis Bell Buckingham

1961 James A Bell

1964 Francis B Bell

1967 Robert K Bell Jr

1970 George T Bell Jr

1973 Henry M Buckingham

1976 John A Sloan

1979 Betsy Bell Condron



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